

# Najdorf Variation - ECO Code

## B90 Sicilian : Najdorf

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



## B90 Sicilian: Najdorf (Lipnitsky)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4



## B90 Sicilian: Najdorf (Adams)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3



## B90 Sicilian: Najdorf (Byrne)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3



## B91 Sicilian: Najdorf (Zagreb)

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.g3**



**B92 Sicilian: Najdorf (Opecensky)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2**



**B93 Sicilian: Najdorf (Amsterdam)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4



**B94 Sicilian: Najdorf, 6.Bg5**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5



**B94 Sicilian: Najdorf (Ivkov)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.Qd2 e6 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.Rhe1 Nc5 12.e5



**B95 Sicilian: Najdorf, 6...e6**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6**



**B96 Sicilian: Najdorf, 7.f4**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4**



**B96 Sicilian: Najdorf (Polugaevsky)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5**



**B96 Sicilian: Najdorf (Simagin)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.Qe2**



**B97 Sicilian: Najdorf (Poisoned Pawn)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6**



**B98 Sicilian: Najdorf, 7...Be7**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7**



**B98 Sicilian: Najdorf (Browne)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 Qc7**



**B98 Sicilian: Najdorf (Argentine)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 g5**





**B98 Sicilian: Najdorf (Göteborg)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.fxg5 Nfd7 11.Nxe6**



**B99 Sicilian: Najdorf (main line)**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7**



# Introduction

The Najdorf Variation arises after **1 e4 c5** [The Sicilian Defense.]

**2 Nf3 d6 3 d4** [This is the "Open" Sicilian. Although the idea of the Sicilian is to prevent White from establishing the pawn duo on e4/d4 by cutting down White's center d-pawn for Black's wing c-pawn, the Open Sicilian is considered White's most aggressive line, as White gets quick development as compensation for Black's mass of central pawns.]

**cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6!**



[This is the characteristic move popularized by Miguel Najdorf and refined into a feared weapon in the hands of Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov. Technically the idea is to prepare the space-gaining ... e7-e5; 5 ... e5 is not very good because of 6 Bb5+ and White will get a knight to f5. Also, now b5 is forever denied to White's knights, enabling the move ... e7-e5 as it will be much harder to exert pressure against the resulting backward d-pawn on d6. However, Black usually only follows up with 6 ... e7-e5 after 6th moves by White such as 6 Be2, 6 g3, 6 Bd3 or 6 h3, which do not directly impact on the battle for d5. On 6 Bc4 (controlling d5) or 6 Bg5 (potentially pinning the f6 knight which defends d5), Black should play 6 ... e6, not 6 ... e5. Other important 6th moves by White are 6 f4 and 6 Be3, in which case Black has the choice between the thematic Najdorf 6 ... e5, and transposing to the Scheveningen Variation with 6 ... e6. Very tricky is 6 a4, after which Black should probably play 6 ... e6, because after 6 ... e5 7 Nf3, White is ready to bring both bishops to the d5-impacting squares c4 and g5 - the point of 6 a4 was to prohibit the typical Black expansion ... b7-b5.]

The 1995 Kasparov-Anand World Championship match saw Vishy Anand obtain fair success with the "quiet" 6 Be2 e6 [transposing to a Scheveningen] 7 O-O Be7 8 a4 Qc7 9 f4 system. White's most ambitious anti-Najdorf system is 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4, after which Black can choose: 7 ... Be7 (the main line), 7 ... Qb6 (the Poisoned Pawn), 7 ... b5 (the Polugaevsky), 7 ... Qc7 (a risky line Kasparov has experimented with) and 7 ... Nc6 (a little-known line in this exact position).

## The 6. Bg5 Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6! 6. Bg5 White attacks the f6 knight.



A) 6... Nbd7 Black protects the f6 knight with his other knight. 7. Bc4 Qa5 8. Qd2 e6 9. O-O-O b5 10. Bb3 Bb7 11. Rhe1 Nc5 12. e5 [Ivkov Variation]



B) **6... e6** [Najdorf, 6...e6] Black now has the knight protected by his queen. **7. f4** [Najdorf, 7.f4] **7... Be7** Black releases the pin on the knight, and prepares for castling. ( 7... Bd7, 7... Qc7, 7... b5, 7... Qb6 ) **8. Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O Nbd7** [Najdorf Main line]



( 8...h6 [Browne-Gothenberg Variation] 9. Bh4 (9. Bxf6 Bxf6 ) 9... Qc7 [Browne Variation] (9... g5 [Gothenberg Variation] Black continues to attack the bishop. Trading pawns will give White a pawn advantage, but will set up a strong attack for Black.))



**7... b5** [Najdorf, Polugayevsky Variation] Black now advances his pawn in hopes of attacking the c3 knight **8. e5 dxe5 9. fxe5 Qc7 10. Qe2** [Polugayevsky, Simagin Variation]



**7... Qb6** [Poisoned Pawn Variation] Black attacks the b2 pawn, which is currently undefended.



**8. Qd2** White lets Black take the pawn, but gives his rook an escape route. (8. Nb3 White blocks the pawn with his knight.) **8... Qxb2** [Poisoned Pawn Accepted] Black takes the pawn. White now hopes to trap the queen, or attack while the queen is away. (8... Nc6 [Poisoned Pawn Rejected] Black will not take the pawn until the knights are traded off. **9. Rb1** White attacks the queen. There is only one safe place for the Black queen - a3. (9. Nb3 White now makes it difficult for the queen to retreat. In fact, Black should move to a3 (the only safe place the queen can go) quickly to avoid losing his queen 9... Qa3 Even now, Black has only one safe spot (b4) that the queen can go. White can now launch a strong attack.) **9... Qa3** White now tries to attack while the queen is not able to defend. For example 10. Be2 White gets his bishop into a position that can attack, 10. Bxf6 gxf6 White trades pieces, doubling up Black's pawns as Black

can only take with the pawn, giving Black a weakness, 10. e5 White now attacks the knight with a pawn. Trading pawns may be unwise for Black, since this would allow White to move the d4 knight, say d4-b5, and then the d8 square would be under attack by both the White queen and bishop or 10. f5 White attacks the e6 pawn.

C) 6... Nc6

### The 6. Be3 Variation

[Byrne Attack] White protects the d4 knight.



### The 6. Bc4 Variation

[Fischer-Sozin Attack] White boldly develops his bishop to attack the f7 pawn.



## The 6. Be2 Variation

[Opovcensky Variation] White gets ready to castle.



## The 6. f4 Variation

White starts a king side attack with pawns.



## The 6. f3 Variation

[English Attack]





### The 6. h3 Variation

[Adams Attack] White defends the g4 square.



### The 6. g3 Variation

[Zagrib (Fianchetto) Variation]



### The 6. a4 Variation

White prohibits the typical Black expansion ... b7-b5



# 6. Bg5 Variation

## Introduction

In England they say that expertise at snooker (a game of the billiards family, the granddaddy of pool) is a sure sign of a mis-spent youth; the same could be said about the Najdorf Sicilian, 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6.

One of the problems, for a practical player, of investing much time in studying a variation like the Najdorf, is you spend a lot of time on positions arising at move 15, 18, 20 or later; all this work can be rendered irrelevant by an improvement (or just a fashionable alternative) a couple of moves earlier on; for a correspondence player this is aggravated by the factor that the novelty or fashion change may arise while the game is in progress, after you are committed but before the line you are hoping for has been reached.

The blurb claims that the Najdorf Sicilian is synonymous with all time greats of chess: Tal, Fischer and Kasparov. It also claims that Kasparov has relied on the Najdorf in all his world championship matches.

Neither claim is entirely valid. Tal's victories against the Sicilian are well-known. With Black pieces he relied on a variety of systems including the Paulsen and Scheveningen - and not on the Najdorf alone. As for Kasparov, he employed the Scheveningen Variation to win the World Championship title from Karpov in 1985. He played the Najdorf only in the match with Short in 1993 and was on the receiving end against 6. Bc4 Variation. In the recent match with Anand he refrained from 6..e5 Variation (The Najdorf) in response to 6.Be2 and allowed the transposition to the Scheveningen. When it failed to work he sprang his surprise weapon, the Dragon Variation with devastating effect.

The Najdorf owes its present reputation to Fischer who played it like a virtuoso throughout his career. As White he played 6.Bc4 refuting every inferior line of his own defence and rehabilitating the system with improvements while playing Black. these claims are not withstanding.

After 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9,0-0-0 Nbd7, there are three main lines : 10.g4, 10.Bd3 and 10. Qg3 apart from the Polugaevsky and the Poisoned Pawn variations.

In the first Main Line 10.g4 b5 Black is found struggling for life after 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5 14.f6. In the above line Black can play 13...Bg5+. Black cannot keep the

extra pawn on account of the hanging bishop. In the resulting position he has a good dark-squared bishop and control of e5 while White has an excellent knight on d5 . White can only hope to obtain a slight edge and in most cases rather drawish opposite-coloured bishop positions result. After 13...Bxg5 14.Kb1 Ne5 15.Qh5 Qe7 16.Rg1 ? h6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ Qxf7 19.Qe2 0-0 Black overcame White's subsequent attack and won. In the above line instead of 16.Rg1 ? White should play 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Qe2 and 20 .Nd5.

In the second Main Line 10.Bd3 White's superior mobilization prevails when Black responds with ordinary developing moves. For example, 10.Bd3 b5 11.Rhe1 Bb7 12.Qg3 Now if 12..0-0-0 ? 13.Bxb5 axb5 14. Ndx5 Qb6 or Qc5 15.e5 with a winning attack . This continuation is far superior to 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Qxg7 Rdf8 winning only a pawn. (15<sup>th</sup> Game , Spassky-Fischer 1972 Match ). Or if 12..b4 13.Nd5 exd5 14.e5 dxe5 15. fxe5.

Although the theoretical verdict is "unclear" , Black is ill-advised to choose Poisoned pawn variation for the following reasons:

- a. White has several attacking plans and Black should be prepared to meet all of them.
- b. White has enduring advantages of space and development which persist till the end.
- c. White has at least a perpetual check in King's side attack and any slight improvement leads to mate .
- d. It would require a prodigious feat of memory to prepare and play this variation as Black in over-the-board play.

Of course, it is suitable for thematic tournaments of correspondence chess .Armed with this kind of analysis both players could begin the game around move 25.

The Polugaevsky Variation is under a cloud as Black's problems of development remain unresolved . After 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 White has at least two promising continuations: a)10.Qe2 Nfd7 11.0-0-0 Bb7 12.Qg4 Qxe5 13.Be2 b)10.exf6 Qe5= 11.Be2 Qg5 12.Qd3 Qxf6 13.Rf1 Qe5 14.Nf3

The crisis in the Main Variation has led the more adventurous Najdorf players to experiment with two offbeat lines: A) 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 B) 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7. Both aim at Queen's side play with an early ...b5 while restraining White's e4-e5 advance. White's attempts to break Black's defences have not succeeded so far, underscoring the resilience of the Sicilian.

There is convenient alternative to those players who wish to minimize their theoretical preparation against the main lines of 6.Bg5.This is the Gothenburg Variation rehabilitated by Fischer. After 6.Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8.Qf3 , Black plays 8..h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.

fxg5 Nfd7 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ Kf8 13.Bb5 Rh7 (Gligorich-Fischer 1958 )

As for the White player , he too can get away from theory and explore "America" with 6. Bg5 e6 7.Qd3 .

# Najdorf Main Line

**Opening:** B99 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation with 6.Bg5 e6

## **Introduction:**

It is known that the Yugoslav codes "99" indicate positions where the theory has advanced more. The sicilian B99 is not an exception, that includes the main lines of the Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation. He is enough frequent to find sacrifices white Nd5 and Rg7, and it is often arrived at positions of great complexity and difficult to evaluate. ***When the white choose 13.a3 (instead of usual 13.f5), the blacks soon carry out the rupture... b4***, opening to the column 'b' on the white K. The theory has advanced many thanks to a great amount of postal games, that were contributing important new features. **The amount of errors is very great that contain the two basic encyclopedias (the Russian and the Yugoslav), so that that enter this land they must meticulously investigate all the variations with critical spirit**. The Brazilian analyst Luiz gives Junior Coast has dedicated long time to dive between the numerous ramifications, and has found some variations very interesting, that we mentioned in this note. There am a summary of the same ones here.

## **Analysis [ B99 ]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9,0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.a3 Rb8 14.Bh3?**

[ Popular is the recommendation of the Yugoslav Encyclopedia, volume B, á. edition. 14.h4 For example: 14... b4 15.axb4 Rxb4 16.Bh3

**A)** The Russian encyclopedia Modern Chess Openings, volume II, page 688/170, Qb6 indicates 16... 17.Nf5 Bf8 18.Rhe1 Rxb2 19.Qd3 d5 20.exd5 Ba3 21.Qe3 Rxc2 + 22.Kxc2 Qb2+ 23.Kd3 Nc5+ 24.Qxc5 Bxc5 25.Re2 Qb8 26.Nxg7+ Kf8 indicating "posición compleja" (Mann - Bodor, cr 1988), ***but would not recommend to the white side to arrive until aqui '! It seems to me that the blacks know clearly advantage;***

**B) Taken care of with the continuation recommended by the ECHO: it is plagued of errors!** Here we mentioned some. 16... Nc5 17.f5 Qb6 18.fxe6 fxe6 19. Nxe6 Nxe6 20.Nd5 Qc5 21.Nxb4 Qxb4 22.e5 (22.Kb1? Gipslis ) 22... Bb7 23.Qe3

Bxh1 24.Bxe6 Rf8? 25.Kb1? "con compensación" according to the ECHO, but after 25... Be4 I believe that the blacks are better; **Clear that after 25.exd6 the white have overwhelming position.**

**C)** 16... Qc5 17.Nb3 Qb6 18.h5 Nc5 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.g6 fxc6 21.hxc6 and now:

**C1)** Him mentioned Russian encyclopedia mentions 21... hxc6 22.Nd5 exd5 23. Bxc8 0-0? ( By means of simple *the 23... Rxh1 24.Rxh1 Rxb2* the blacks obtained advantage (Morgado) ) 24.Qg4? ( After 24.exd5 the white have better possibilities. I recommend the reader to deepen in this position. ) 24... Rxe4 25.Rde1 Bf6 26.c3 Qa5 Bellin - Portisch, Teeside 1972. **Incredibly the mentioned book concludes that this one is one "posición compleja", when the white win with 27.Be6+;**

**C2)** 21... h6 22.Nd5 exd5 23.Bxc8 0-0 24.Qg4 Rxe4 with clear black advantage, Kaplan-Browne, Madrid 1973; Other possibilities mentioned by the ECHO are 14. Qh3; and 14.f5 ]

### **14... Nc5**

[ Bad is 14... 0-0? 15.g6! hxc6 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bxe6+ Rf7 18.h4± Tringov - Reshevsky, Amsterdam izt 1964; It is not solution 14... Qc4 either? 15.Nb3! Bb7 16. Rhg1 (16.Na5) 16... g6 17.Qe3 h6! (17... Qc7) 18.gxh6 Nf6 19.e5 dxe5 20.Qxe5 Rc8 21.Na5 Qc7 22.Nxb7 Qxb7 23.Nd5!+ - Sevecek-Gudim, USSR 1967 ( Very hard fxe6 is also 23.Bxe6 24.Rxg6) ]

### **15.Rhg1?**

[ Or 15.Rhe1 0-0 16.Qg3 b4 17.axb4 Rxb4 18.f5 Qb6 19.f6 the ECHO indicates "posición here compleja". 19... Bd8 20.fxc7 Re8 21.Nf5! ( I suggest to analyze 21. e5 here? 21... exf5 22.Nd5 Qa5 with clear black advantage, Planinc - Bukic, 1975 ]

### **15... b4**

[ Interesting is 15... Na4 16.f5? Nxc3 17.Qxc3 Qxc3 18.bxc3 = ]

### **16.axb4 Rxb4 17.f5 Qb7**



In the magazine Fernschach 3/70 it is indicated that the plus segura" (analysis of Nunn). [ taken care of Again with the ECHO! After 17... Qb6 18.fxe6 (18.f6! gxf6 19. gxf6 Bf8 20.b3 Rxd4 with clear black advantage) 18... fxe6

**A)** 19.Nxe6 Nxe6 (19... Bxe6 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Nd5 Qc5 22.Nxb4 Qxb4 23.e5 Qf4+ 24.Qxf4 Nxf4 25.exd6 Bxd6 = Scanavino - Najdorf, Buenos Aires 1965 ) 20.Nd5 Qc5 21.Nxb4 Qxb4 22.e5 Bb7 23.Qf5 Qf4+ 24.Kb1! Qxf5 25.Bxf5 Nng5 26.exd6 Bf6 27.Rd3+ = Analysis of Nunn;

**B)** But not 19.Nf5? as á. indicates the Yugoslav Encyclopedia edition, 1997, since after 19... exf5 20.Nd5 Qa5! the blacks know clearly advantage (It gives Junior Coast) (P ero not 20... Nb3+ 21.cxb3 Qc5+ 22.Kb1 fxe4 23.Qe2 with white advantage, that is what indicates the ECHO, Karcivski - Sumhin, cr 1977. ) ]

## 18.f6

[ premature is 18.g6 hxg6 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.Rxg6 Bf6µ; to uncertain position fxe6 leads 18.fxe6 19.b3 Rf8 20.Qe3 g6 21.Bg4 Qb6 22.e5 dxe5 23.Qxe5 Bd6 24.Qg7 Qa5 25.Kb1 with complex position, Matulovic-Bogdanovic, Sarajevo 1966]

## 18... gxf6

[ the thematic sacrifice of a N in d5 takes place after 18... Bf8 19.b3 gxf6 (19... a5) 20.Nd5 exd5 21.Bxc8 Qxc8 22.exd5 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 f5 24.Re1+ Be7 25.Rf4 Qc7 26. Rxf5 0-0 27.Kb1 with attack, Gligoric, S-Bertok, M/Novi Sad 1965]



## 19.gxf6 Bf8 20.b3 a5

O'Kelly had suggested this play in one of his first books. Also it is mentioned in Fernschach 3/70, and is indicated by 20 the Interesting ECHO [ to deepen is... h5? For example: 21.Rg7 Bd7 (21... Bxg7 22.fxg7 Rg8 23.Qxh5 Qe7 24.Nc6 Qf6 25.e5) 22.Nd5? Here the ECHO indicates "posición compleja" and mentions the game Bezan - Gutman, USSR 1969. Nevertheless, after 22... exd5 23.exd5 Bxh3 (23... Rxd4 24.Rxd4 Bxg7 25.fxg7 Rg8 26.Qe2+ Kd8 27.Qxh5) 24.Re1+ (24.Qxh3 Rxd4) 24... Be6 25.dxe6 Qxf3! (25... Rxd4 26.exf7+ Kd7 27.Re7+! Bxe7 28.fxe7 Qxf3 29.e8Q+! Rxe8 30.f8Q+!!+ -) 26.exf7+ Kd7 27.Nxf3 Up to here the analysis of Gives Junior Coast, that diagnoses "posición compleja". Interesting Rh6 is now the continuation 27... Rb8 (27...! 28.Re7+! Unique Kc6 29.Rg8 Nd7 30.Rxd7 Kxd7 31.Rxf8 Rxf6 32.Ng5 and as the white have Ra8, is left a position balanced. ) 28.Nh4 Ne6 29.Reg1 Nxc7 30.fxg7 Bxg7 31.Rxc7 Ke7 with black advantage; However, Bh6 + loses 20 quickly... 21.Kb2 Bd7 22.Qh5 Be3 (22... Bf8 23.Rg7±) 23.Qxh7+ - 1-0 Buljovic, I-Bertok, M/Novi Sad 1965/MCD (44) ]

## 21.Qe3



Very analyzed in Yearbooks Italian CCYB 11/167 and CCYB 11/167. In this tactically important position numerous plays have been tried: [ 21.Na2 Rb6 22.Bg2 e5 23.Nf5 Bxf5 24.exf5 e4 25.Qe3 h5 with clear advantage of the blacks, Aymard, M-Wojciechowski, R/FRA-Cup corr 1992; 21.Nd5 Analyzed in Fernschach 3/70

**A)** 21... exd5

**A1)** 22.Bxc8 Qxc8 23.exd5 Qb7? (the line 23... Rxd4 is the critical alternative; for example: 24.Rxd4 Nd7 with complex position according to Nunn, in its book The Complete Najdorf: 6 Bg5 (1997) ; 23... a4 24.Rde1+ Kd7... 25.Qg4+ Kc7 26.Ne6+ Qxe6 27.Qxb4 complex Qxd5 with posición, analysis of M.Stean ; 23... Rxd4) 24.Rde1+ Kd7? (24... Kd8) 25.Rg7 Kc8 26.Re8+ Kd7 27.Rb8! Qxb8 28.Rxf7+ Ke8 29.Qh5 1-0 Frey, W-Maeder, K/cr BRD-1ch V 1968;

**A2)** 22.exd5 22... Rxd4 23.Rxd4

**A2a)** 23... Bxh3 24.Qxh3 h5 25.Qc3 Qa7 26.Re1+ Kd8 27.Kb1 Rh6 (27... Qb6±) 28.Ra4!+ - Richter-Mescheder/cr WE M 1984;

**A2b)** 23... Nd7 24.Qc3 Nb6 25.Re1+ Kd8 26.Bxc8 Bh6+ 27.Kb1 Qxc8 28.Qxa5± Fechner - August, cr 1975;

**B)** 21... a4 22.Qc3 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 exd5 24.Bxc8 Qxc8 25.Rxa4 d4 26.Rxd4 Bh6+ 27.Kb1 complicated Bf4 with posición, Breum-Maeder, K/cr GER M 1967; Or 21.Qh5 a4 22.bxa4 (22.Na2 Rxd4? inerte) 22... Nxa4 23.Nxa4 Rxa4 24.Nb3 and the blacks is something better ( But not 24.Bxe6? Bxe6 25.Nxe6 Qb4 26.Qb5+ Qxb5 27.Nc7+ Kd7 28.Nxb5 Bh6+ 29.Kb2 Rb4+ 30.Kc3 Rxb5-+ Clarkson, A-ÓNeill, P/cr ch ENG teams 1995 ) ; Retirement 21.Kb1? a4 with clear black, Constant attack - Taiana/corr 1983 is inadequate by 21...; The centralization 21.Rge1 does not reach to stop the black offensive; for example 21... a4 22.Nd5 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 axb3 with fort attacks, Kroener, O-Manneck, H/DDR corr 1982; Bad he is 21.Rg7? by 21... a4 22.Na2 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 axb3 24.Nc3 bxc2 ' ; In order to investigate 21.Bf1 is the line a4 22.Bb5+ Bd7 23.Bxd7+ ]

**21... h5**

Obvious Bh6 threatens. Here compleja'' finalizes the analysis of the ECHO with the ''posición diagnosis, mentioning the game Rosinov - Falke, cr 1979.

**22.Rg7?**

[ As opposed to 22.Nf5! the blacks are left better after 22... exf5 23.exf5+ Ne4 with clear black advantage; And in case of 22.Qe2 a4 with initiative ]

**22... Bxg7N**



[ If 22... Bd7 23.Rdg1 with initiative; If 22... Qb6 would follow the sacrifice thematic 23.Nd5! exd5 24.exd5+ Kd8 25.Nc6+ Kc7 26.Rxf7+ 1-0 Rosinov - Krecak, corr EU/M 1979; Junior coast analyzes 22... a4 23.bxa4 Nxa4 (23... Rc4? Zapata ) 24.Bxe6 Bxe6 25.Nxe6 Nxc3 (25... Bxg7 26.Nxg7+ Kf8 27.Rxd6±) 26.Qxc3 Rb1+ (26... Bxg7 27.fxg7 Rg8 28.Nc7++ - with idea of Nd5 ) 27.Kd2 Rxd1+ 28.Kxd1 Bxg7 29.fxg7 Rg8 30.Nc7++ - and in spite of the quality of advantage, the blacks are inermes before the Nd5 threat. ]

**23.fxg7 Rg8 24.Qh6**



This tactically important position is analyzed by Junior Coast

## 24... f6

The alternatives are:

**[ A )** 24... f5 25.Qxh5+ (25.exf5) 25... Qf7 26.Qxf7+ Kxf7 27.exf5 exf5 (27... e5 28. Ndb5 Nb7 29.Bg2 Kxg7 30.Bxb7 Bxb7 31.Nxd6 with compensation) 28.Nd5 Rb8 29. Bxf5 with compensation;

**B )** 24... Qe7 25.Nc6 Qh4 26.Nxb4? ( 26.Rxd6 Bd7 Seems better 27.Nd5 creating strong threats. Although the position still is very complicated, seems that the white obtain clear advantage. The reader can investigate more thoroughly! ) 26... axb4 27.Nb5 Nxe4 28.Nxd6+ (28.Bg2 Qf6! 29.Nxd6+ Ke7 30.Qxf6+ Nxf6 31.Nxc8+ Rxc8 32.Rd4÷) 28... Nxd6 29.Rxd6 Qxh3 (29... uncertain Ke7) 30.Qf6 Qe3+ 31.Kb1 unique Bd7 32.Rxd7 Kxd7 33.Qxf7+ Kd6 34.Qxg8 Qg1+ 35.Ka2 Qa7+ 36.Kb2 Qd4 + 37.Kc1 Qg1+ = ]

## 25.Bxe6! Bxe6 26.Nxe6 Nxe6 27.Qxh5+

[ the blacks are left better after 27.Rxd6 Qxg7 28.Rxe6+ Kf7 29.Qxg7+ Rxg7 30. Ra6 Rg1+ 31.Kb2 Rh1 with clear black advantage, since the laborer ´h´ is very dangerous. ]

## 27... Qf7 28.Qxa5! Rb8

[ 28... Rb7 29.Nb5! Rxb5 30.Qxb5+ Qd7 31.Qf5 with compensation; 28... Qb7 29. Qh5+; 28... Rd4 29.Rxd4 Nxd4 30.Qa8+ Ke7 31.Qa7+ Ke8 32.Qxd4 with

compensation ]

## **29.Rxd6 Rxc7**

[ does not serve 29... Rd8? by 30.Qb5+ Rd7 (30... Ke7 31.Qb7+ Kxd6 32.Qxf7) 31. Nd5!+ - ]

## **30.Qf5! Nc7! 31.Rxf6 Qe7! 32.Nb5! Rxb5**

[ 32... Nxb5 33.Re6 Nc7 34.Rxe7+ Rxe7 with complex game (Morgado) ]

## **33.Qc8+ Qd8 34.Rf8+ Kxf8 35.Qxd8+ Ne8**

At this position the analysis arrives from Givens Junior Coast, that thinks that the position is even. Perhaps compleja'' can correspond the qualification of ''posición. \*

## Opening: B99 - Sicilian Qefense Najdorf variation

In the Najdorf variation of the Siciliana B99, the Brazilian Luiz gives Junior Coast has discovered a very important fault in the Yugoslav Encyclopedia, volume B third edition, that changes the valuation of the line. In the variation 13. f5 Bxg5, the mentioned ECHO indicates for the 20 blacks... Nc4, that are a serious error, since after the answer **21.Nc6** ! the blacks have insoluble problems.

### Analysis of line [ B99 ]

[ By Juan S. Morgado - Analysis of Luiz Qa Coast Junior ]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Bxg5+ 14.Kb1 Ne5 15.Qh5 Qd8 16.fxe6 O-O



[ the alternative is 16... g6 These are the main alternatives

**A)** 17.Qe2! Bxe6 18.h4 Bg4 19.Qh2 Bxd1 20.hxg5 Bg4 (20... Bf3! and better the blacks) 21.Nd5 Qxg5 22.Nc7+ Kd7 23.Nxa8 Rxa8µ Boehmer, C-Scholz, C/Germany 1993;

**B)** 17.exf7+ 17... Kxf7 18.Qe2

**B1)** 18... Rf8 19.h3 (19.Nf3 Nxf3 20.Qxf3+ Kg7 21.Qd3 Bf4 22.Nd5 Be5 23.Be2 ' Csolig, R-Novotny, V/FS9910 FM3 1999 ) 19... Kg8 20.Bg2 Ra7 21.Rhf1 Raf7 22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Rf1 Rxf1+ 24.Qxf1 Nc4=+ Ballester, R-Blevinal, T/France 1994/EXT 99;

**B2)** 18... Bg4 19.Qf2+ (19.Nc6! Bxe2 20.Nxd8+ Rhxd8 21.Bxe2 Rac8 22.Nd5+ =, Malachi, A-Serebrjanik, A/Israel 1993/Inf 58 (22) ) 19... Qf6 20.Qxf6+ Bxf6 =

Louhivaara, J-Keskisarja, T/Vantaa 1998;

**B3)** 18... Kg7

**Bá)** 19.h4 Bxh4 20.Bh3 Bg5 21.Nd5 (21.Rdg1 h6 22.Nd5 Bxh3 23.Rxh3 Qd7 24.Rc3 Ra7 25.Rc7 Rxc7 26.Nxc7÷ Licina, A-Peptan, C/EU-chJW U20 Hradec Kralove 1992 )

21... Ra7 22.Rdg1 h6? 23.Qh2 Bxh3 24.Qxh3 Re8 25.Nf5+ Kf8 26.Nxh6 1-0 Asfora, E-Najdorf, M/Tucuman 1971/EXT 99 (26);

**B3b)** 19.Nd5 19... Ra7 20.Og2 Rf7 21.Be2 Rhf8 22.Rdf1 Bh4 23.Rxf7+ Rxf7 24.Rf1 Rxf1 + 25.Qxf1 Qg5 26.a4 bxa4 27.Bxa6 Bd7 28.Bb5 Bc8 29.Ba6 ½ - ½ Milijanovic, G-Arsovic, G/Belgrade 1993/EXT 97 (29) ]

## 17.h4

It is the only play mentioned by the Yugoslav Encyclopedia, Volume B, á. edition, but there are other alternatives that deserve consideration. [ 17.Bh3 g6 18.Qe2 Kh8 19.Nd5 Ra7 20.Rdg1 fxe6 21.Bxe6 Bh4 22.Rf1 Re8 23.Bxc8 Qxc8 24.Qe3 Rg7 25.Rhg1<sup>2</sup> Zindel, E-Nemet, I/Geneve 1992/MON B90 LF; 17.Rg1 h6 18.Nf5 Bxe6 19.Rxd6 Qc7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Rac8 22.c3 b4 Jobe, T-Mueller, R/KO-230.1.2 IECC 1998 and now 23. Nxh6+ Bxh6 24.Qxh6 complex Ng6 25.Qe3 bxc3 ]

## 17... Bf6 18.Bh3 fxe6

If 18... Re8? 19.Nc6 Qc7 20.Ne5 Be5 21.Nd5 with clear advantage, Psakhis - Grunfeld, Israel 1996, Inf. 66-235, mentioned by the mentioned ECHO B, page 543/106.

## 19.Bxe6+ Kh8 20.Nd5 Nc4?



Mentioned like only alternative by the mentioned Encyclopedia. But one is a serious

error! [ the correct thing is 20... g6=+ ]

## **21.Nc6!±**

*Propose play by Luiz gives Junior Coast, that changes the valuation of the line . [ the mentioned ECHO only mentions 21.Nxf6 Qxf6 22.Bd5 Rb8 23.Qg5 complex Bd7, Enders - Didishko, Schoneck 1996. ]*

## **21... Qe8**

Unica. If 21... g6 22.Nxd8 gxh5 23.Nf7+ -

## **23... Rxe6**

Or 23... fxg6? 24.Bxc4 bxc4 25.Rxd6 with great advantage.

## **24.Nd5! Bb7**

*(If 24... Bd7 25.Nc7 Rxe4 26.Nxa8 Bxc6 27.b3±; if 24... Rxe4 25.Nc7 Bb7 26.Nxa8 with clear advantage.)*

## **25.Nc7 Rxe4 26.Nxa8 Bxa8 27.Nb4...**

[ If 27.b3 Bxc6 28.bxc4 Rxc4 29.Rxd6± ] but in the end the blacks still has some resources.

## **27... a5**

Nxb2 by 28.Rxd6+ does not serve 27... -

## **28.Na6**

with great advantage.



## Opening: B99 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation

### **Introduction:**

The Sicilian Defense, Najdorf variation, with its thousands of branches, always offers field for the investigation. Multiple analyses can be about the main line with 16.Rg1 and 17.Rg7. *In Informer 45 the game Valdés versus is analyzed Diaz, Cuba 1996, and soon those analyses have been gathered by magazines, monographs, and until by the own Yugoslav Encyclopedia. The lovers of this variation must be extreme careful, since several of the analyses are erroneous! Let us see:*

**2 analyses [ B99 ]**

**06.12.1999**

**[ Morgado/Da Coast Junior ]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 Bf8 16.Rg1**

The other possibilities are: [ 16.Bg2; 16.b4; 16.a3!+ =; 16.Qh5 ]

**16... h5**

[ Other branches are: 16... Bb7 17.a36+ =; 16... b4 ]

**17.Rg7**

[ Or positional 17.a3? ]

**17... b4**

[ 17... Bxg7? 18.fxc7 Rg8 19.Bxb5+!+ - ]

**18.Nd5 exd5 19.exd5 Bg4**

[ Probably more hard is 19... Nd7! ]

**20.Re1+ Kd8 21.Qf4 Kc8 22.Kb1**

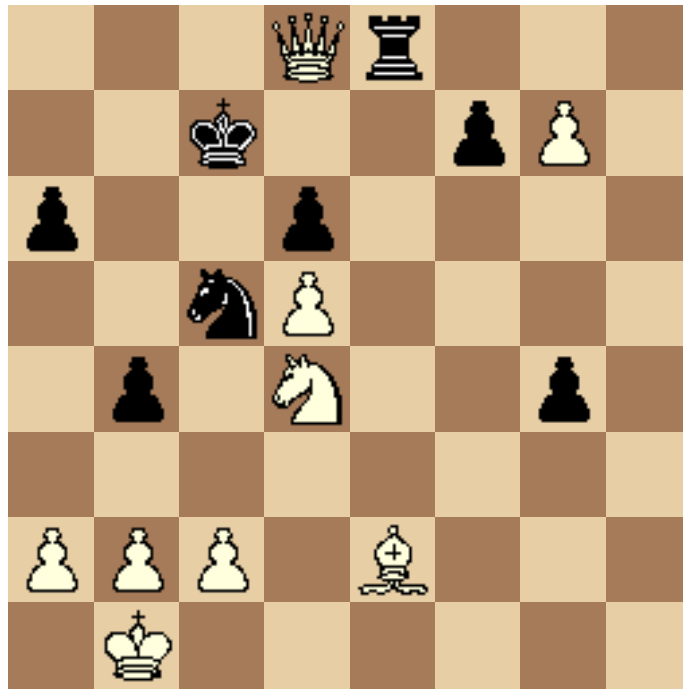


To this play a sign of admiration in the Inf is placed to him. 45/305, but that are erroneous. Taken care of who guide themselves by those analyses, because they contain many faults! [ the most complicated possibility is 22.Nc6 here a5 with complex position (22... Qd7? 23.h3 and the white are with clear advantage, Mende, A-Juhnke, J/ Germany 1994/EXT 99 ) and now not can 23.h3 Bd7 24.Rxf7? Bh6; 22.Ne6? fxe6 only 23.Rxc7+ Kxc7 24.Qxb4 e5 with complex position; 22.h3? Bd7 with idea of Qa5, b3 ]

**22... Qd7 23.h3 Kc7 24.hxg4 Bxg7 25.fxg7 Rhe8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Be2 hxg4 28. Qg5 Qd8**

Here ECHO B, á ediciòn, 1997, indicates "igualdad", on the base of the game Valdés - Diaz Perez, Pine of River 1990, Inf. 51/(256). Luiz gives Junior Coast suggests here

**29.Qxd8+**



[ In the Informing mentioned one indicates like error 29.Qxg4? mentioning 29... Rg8 30. Nf5 Qf6 Valdes, L-Diaz Perez, J/Pinar of the Rio 1988/Inf 45/[Diaz Perez, JD ] with the clear diagnosis of "ventaja of negras", but we differed with that concept, since the white still have resources to hold the position. ]

The ECHO mentions 29.Qxd8 with an admiration sign, but this is completely erroneous, since after

### 29... Kxd8!

Resource found by Luiz gives Junior Coast that changes evaluaciòn of the line. After [ Diaz only analyzes in the Informer 29... Rxd8 30.Bxg4 Rg8! 31.Nf5 Ne4 32.Bh5 Ng3! 33.Bxf7 (33.Nxg3 Rxg7 with contrajuego) 33... Nxf5 34.Bxg8 Nxg7 = ]

**30.Nf5 only Ne4 31.Bxg4 Ng3 and the blacks is better. \***

# HANGING TOUGH

**By Randy Bauer**

The Sicilian Defense offers Black the prospect of active counterplay at an early stage of the game. That is one of its chief appeals for the enterprising player. There is a necessary corollary: Black takes some risks, often positional, for his activity. If White is able to defuse Black's activity, he can get a strong positional grip.

In this game, white does a nice job of gaining a positional advantage in an unusual case of two knights being better than two bishops. Black hangs tough, however, and is able, with the help of a couple key decisions, to attain sufficient counterplay to draw.

FM Benedikt Jonsson (2385 FIDE) vs. Randy Bauer (2245 USCF)  
1989 Twin Cities Open  
Sicilian, Najdorf Variation

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cd 4.Nd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O Nbd7 10.g4 b5**

I've always believed in going my own way in the opening – even in theoretically critical lines like the Najdorf. This is the key variation, but earlier in the year I won an important game in the Iowa State Championship against NM Mitch Weiss with the theoretically discredited 10...h6 (click [HERE](#) to see that article).

**11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5**

At present, the most solid move for black is considered to be 13...Bxg5+. After 14.Kb1, black cannot hold the e-pawn. For example, 14...Nc5? 15.Bxb5+! axb5 16.Ndxb5 and 17.Nxd6+ gives white a big attack. Likewise, 14...e5 15.Nd5! Qb7 16.Ne6 fxe6 17.Qh5 + gives White a nice attack. However, black can return the pawn and attain an acceptable position with 14...Ne5 15.Qh5 Qd8! 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.fxe6 g6! 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Qe2 Kg7 (van der Weije - Krudde, Dieren 1990) with about equal chances.

**14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 Bf8 16.a3**



## ALTERNATIVE TO THE DANGEROUS 16.Rg1

The theoretically critical move (and the reason that 13...Bxg5+ is back in vogue) is 16. Rg1!. This move, found by the creative genius Perenyi, puts great pressure on the Black position because of the threat of a timely Rg7.

White's move is motivated by a desire to maintain his knight on c3. I was familiar with the move, however, and played into a variation that John Nunn, in his 1988 book, NAJDORF FOR THE TOURNAMENT PLAYER had dismissed for Black.

### 16...Rb8!? 17.b4! Nd7!?

Nunn claims that 16...Rb8 is dubious, quoting a correspondence game that went 17.b4! Na4 18.Nxa4 bxa4 19.Rg1! a5 20.Qh5 Bd7 21.Rg7! (Perenyi's idea again) 21...Bxg7 22.fxg7 Rg8 23.Nb5 Rxb5 24.Qxh7 Rxg7 25.Qxg7 Re5 26.Rd3 with a winning position for White (Berg-Zinman, 1982-83).

When looking at this game, I thought that Black would gain more by having his knight on e5 than he got from the line openings with ...Na4.

Interestingly, Daniel King, in his 1993 book, WINNING WITH THE NAJDORF, reaches the same conclusion (obviously not knowing of my 1989 experience with the line!). He comments about 17...Nd7 that, "With the knight on e5 Black's central position would remain secure, giving him the chance to put more pressure on White's king. Food for thought."

### 18.Rg1

As we've seen from Berg-Zinman, this is a key idea. The rook aims for g7 and, just as importantly, prevents the black rook from seizing the file. The caveman approach doesn't work – 18.Ne6 fxe6 19.f7+ or 19.Qh5+ Kd8 and Black has adequate defensive

resources.

**18...Ne5 19.Qh3 Bd7 20.Be2 h5 21.Kb2 Rc8 22.Qe3!**



### **TACTICALLY STOPPING BLACK'S ...B-h6**

Up until this point I felt that Black was all right. Black envisioned eventually putting his bishop on the active c1-h6 diagonal, but White's move radically prevents this, since 22... Bh6?? 23.Qxh6! wins because of the back rank mate. This is an attacking theme that Black must watch carefully.

**22...Nc4+ 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.Rd3 e5!?**

This is a critical point in the game. Black must find a way to involve some more pieces beyond the queen and rook on c8. There really are only two ways, and I rejected 24... a5 because I didn't think I would get enough initiative for the pawn after 25.bxa5 b4 26. axb4 Qxb4+ 27.Nb3. Black still has his problem kingside pieces.

Black's move cedes the d5-square and keeps the dark squared bishop passive, but it allows black to play ...Be6, which removes the back rank mate problems, when Black can envision developing his kingside via h6.

**25.Nb3 Be6 26.Rg2**

White protects c2 to allow him to play Nd5. If allowed, White will regain a bind on the position, since a knight vs. dark squared bishop ending would greatly favor the knight.

**26...Rh6!**

Counterplay! Just in time, Black creates threats of his own. The f6-pawn is a real thorn in black's side, so Black targets it, since its advanced nature makes it hard for White to

support.

## 27.Rg8!



### THE GAME GETS SHARPER AND SHARPER

White recognizes that 27.Rf2? Rg6! cedes the initiative to Black.

## 27...Rxf6 28.Rxd6 Rg6

My original idea behind 26...Rh6 was to now play 28...Rf2. Then 29.Qh6?? Qxb3+! wins for Black, and 29.Qxf2 Qxc3+ 30.Kb1 Bxb3 31.cxb3 Qc1+ also wins. However, 29.Rxe6+!? fxe6 30.Qxf2 Qxc3+ 31.Kb1 Ke7 32.Qh4+ gives White a clear advantage, and 29.Rd2 also looks good. Black, as they say, had to switch (reluctantly!) to Plan B.

## 29.Rxg6

Even though this allows White to keep some advantage, I was more worried about 29.Rh8, which ties down the black pieces and entombs the black king. 29...Rg2 30.Rd2 again consolidates. Black would probably have to try 29...Ke7, hoping for 30.Rd2? Bh6! with counterplay, for example 31.Rxh6 Rxh6 32.Qxh6 Qxc3+ 33.Ka2 (33.Kb1 Bxb3 34.cxb3 Qc1+ 35.Ka2 Rc2+! draws) 33...Qf3!? and White may have to settle for 34.Qg5+ Ke8 35.Qg8+ with a draw. Other moves, such as 35.Qxe5, allow 35...Rc2+

## 29...Bxd6 30.Rg8+! Kd7 31.Rxc8! Qxc8

Black must now be very careful. The first point is that 31...Kxc8? 32.Qb6! wins the a6-pawn. The trade of rooks has neutralized Black's counterplay on the c-file. Both the white knights have nice entry points on the fifth rank, and Black's bishops don't do much.

## 32.Qd2?!

Black's biggest concern is the h-pawn. If White can win it while keeping control of the position, he'll probably win.

White's move seeks a positional solution: White will play Nd5, when, after the inevitable ...Bxd5 White will recapture with the queen and have a great knight against a lousy bishop endgame. The problem is that Black does not have to acquiesce.

I think that White should view the h5-pawn as the bigger target in the position. The immediate 32.Qh6! gives White a more workable advantage than in the game. After 32...Bg4 (32...Qg8 33.Qxh6 Qg2 doesn't seem to yield anything tangible for Black) 33.Nd5 Qf8 34.Qe3!, with the threat of Qa7+, puts Black under great pressure.

## 32...Bxb3!

The game has reached a crisis point for Black, as White is threatening to penetrate with both knights. The text sets a devilish trap, since 33.Kxb3? Qc4+ 34.Kb2 Qd4! turns the tables entirely: 33.Qe2 Bxb4! is clearly better for Black, and 33.Qxd4? exd4 34.Ne2 Bxh2 35.Nxd4 Be5! wins for Black.

Still, while the trap is nice, it is not why I played the move. We must be careful about playing for our opponent to err – eventually we run into stronger players who "see through" our plans.

In this case, the move cripples White's queenside pawn structure and creates an important drawing scheme for Black: perpetual check. There are now no escape squares for the white king, so queen checks on the first and second ranks may draw. Black utilizes this motif throughout the rest of the game.

It's important to familiarize yourself with these types of concepts. They'll crop out from time to time for both the player with the advantage and the player trying to save a poor game.

## 33.cxb3 Qd8

Now 34.Nd5 Qh4 creates counterplay for Black and denies White the use of the f-file.

## 34.Qf2 Ke8! 35.Qf5?

The text seems logical, attacking the h5 pawn and not allowing 35...Qh4 on account of 36.Qc8+ Ke7?? 37.Nd5#. Still, if White had seen what was coming he would have preferred 35.Qa7, when Black probably has to defend with 35...Qc8 and White keeps an edge.



## 35...Bxb4!



## THE DRAW IS NOW IN SIGHT

The bishop finally goes on the offensive. The point, of course, is that 36.axb4? Qd2+ 37. Kb1 (37.Ka3 Qxc3 threatens mate on a1, when 38.Ka2 Qxh2 gives Black a clear advantage) 37...Qxc3 is good for Black. 36.Nd5 doesn't solve the problem either, as 36... Bxa3+! 37. Kxa3 Qa5+ 38.Kb2 Qd2+ 39.Kb1 Qd1+ 40.Ka2 Qd2+ 41.Ka3 Qa5+ draws.

Now, of course, Black is still threatening 36...Qd2+, and to maintain material equality White must liquidate what Hans Kmoch referred to as a "ram pawn" – the e5-pawn that has been hampering the black squared bishop.

## 36.Qe5+ Be7 37.Qh8+

The queen check on d2 still prevents White from taking the h5 pawn.

## 37...Bf8 38.Nd5 Qg5

This is sufficient, as is 38...Qd6 when, with both rook pawns under attack, White probably has to play 39.Nf6+ Ke7 (not 39...Ke6? 40.Qf6+) 40.Nd5+ with a draw.

## 39.Nf6+ Ke7 40.Nd5+ Ke6, 1/2 - 1/2.

Faced with threats of ...Bg7+, ...Qg2+ or ...Qd2+, White has nothing better than 41. Qxf8, which allows the perpetual starting with 41...Qd2+.

By "hanging tough" Black was able to eke out a draw with a superior player. The moral of the story, of course, is to always seek ways to make it hard for the player with the advantage to win the game. Look for hidden resources and, above all else, make your

opponent beat you, don't beat yourself!

# Go Your Own Way

By National Master Randy Bauer

Thumb through any report from a high-level grandmaster tournament and you'll see a variety of sharp and topical openings being contested. Often the theory on the Sicilian Dragons, Classical King's Indians and Botvinnik Semi-Slavs will stretch out past move 20 or 30.

While these openings disputes are often fascinating and appear to be all the rage, I would caution the average practical amateur tournament player from emulating their chessic heroes' opening choices. After all, the Kasparovs, Kramniks, Karpovs, and assorted other "special Ks" of the chess world are professionals who can afford to spend countless hours studying, honing, and sharpening their repertoire. Who among us can do the same?

I long ago gave up any aspirations of becoming a world-class (or even national-class) chess player. With the demands of work and family, I determined that I had to find ways to minimize the opening study necessary to play tournament chess.

That is why I have sought to go my own way in the openings. I seek little-known but still viable approaches in the opening. This doesn't mean that one has to resort to playing 1.g4 or speculative gambits. In just about every opening there are little analyzed sidelines that can be useful with a bit thought and study.

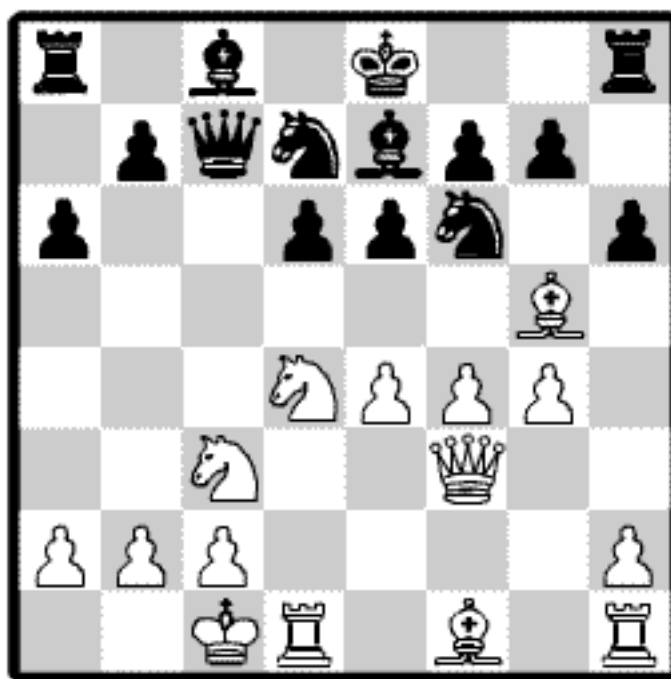
The following game is a case in point. Although black plays the trendy and over-analyzed Najdorf Sicilian, he still finds a way to steer the play away from opening theory. As a result, he was better able to deal with the resulting positions and won a key game on the way to winning the state championship.

Mitch Weiss (2350) vs. Randy Bauer (2250)  
1989 Iowa State Closed Championship  
Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5**

This was the critical game of the championship. My opponent, the defending champion, was the top-rated player and I was number two in the 6-player round robin. Most of my pre-tournament preparation had been spent on 6.f4, my opponent's usual choice. Before the tournament, however, I had prepared "something different" in case he played this most popular try.

**6...e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O Nbd7 10.g4 h6!??**



### LITTLE KNOWN SIDE LINE

The position after 10.g4 is considered the main line of the 6.Bg5 Najdorf and is still a hot topic in high-level play. The theory on it is extensive and ever-changing. As an example, the primary theoretical work at that time on the Najdorf was John Nunn's excellent NAJDORF FOR THE TOURNAMENT PLAYER. That 1988 book contained 16 pages of double spaced text on the line with 10.g4. Black's choice, 10...h6, merited just 6 lines in one column on one page.

Things have only gotten worse theory-wise since this game was played. John Nunn has recently starting revising his 1988 book. In 1988, he was able to cover all the variations of the Najdorf in 288 pages. Earlier this year, Nunn released a partial revision of his work. This time, he spent 320 pages on the lines with 6.Bg5 alone, of which 60 are devoted to 10.g4. All the other popular tries (6.Bc4, 6.Be2, 6.Be3, 6.f4, etc.) will be covered in a second volume of similar length!

By finding lines like the text, black is able to sidestep most of that theory. Of course, avoiding theory is of little use if the move you play is downright bad. In this case, I'll grant you that 10...h6 is not as objectively good as black's primary choice, 10...b5. However, the move isn't without its points.

Black envisions a typical attack on the dark squares with ...g5, which helps secure a fine outpost on e5 for black's pieces. In similar positions, the g-pawn would be on g2, which is probably a better square for it.

Still, 10...h6 costs time, and white should be able to get an edge with accurate play. In my database, however, black scores about 50% with it (albeit from a small sample).

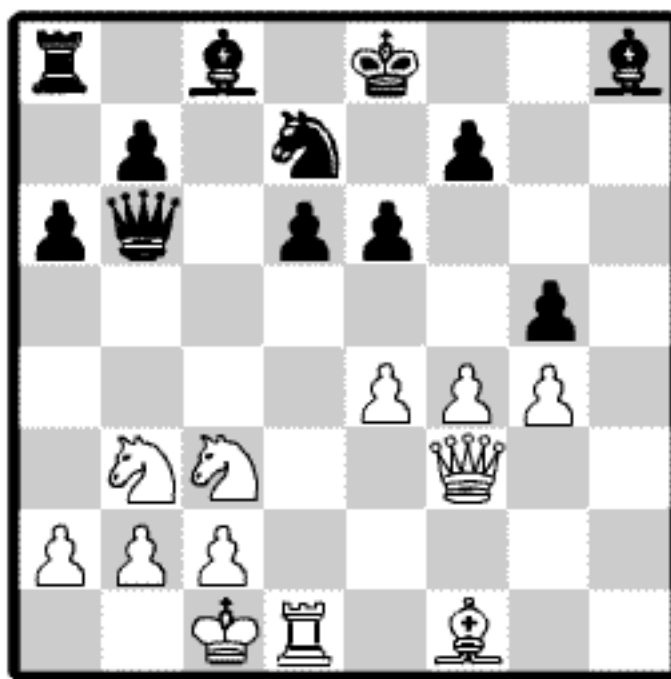
### 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.h4 Qb6 13.Nb3

In 1988, all Nunn gave was 13.Nce2 g5!? without further comment, and I did a fair amount of original analysis on that position. After the game, I analyzed the game quite a bit with NM Dan Harger. His suggestion was 13.Nde2 g5 14.hxg5 hxg5 15.e5. Then 15...Rxf1 16.Qxf1 dxe5 17.f5! causes black some problems, but 16...Be7!? looks playable.

Interestingly, Nunn gives a little further information on Harger's 13.Nde2 in his 1997 book. He gives 13.Nde2 g5 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxg5 e4 16.Qxe4 hxg5 17.h5 Ne5 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.Rh3 0-0-0 as unclear, based on Molvig-Kristensen, Copenhagen 1995.

At the time, I thought 13.Nb3 passive, as it removes the knight from a strong central post, and the knight does nothing but watch for the rest of the game. Nunn also ignores it in both his 1988 and 1997 books. However, when I repeated this opening in a preliminary game of the 1994 Iowa state postal championships, I found an interesting idea for white that I'd been oblivious to.

### 13...g5(?) 14.hxg5 hxg5 15.Rxf8+ Bxf8



**CRITICAL POSITION**

16.f5?

Although this seemed logical at the time, it weakens the dark squares and hands over control of e5 without a fight. Of course, 16.fxg5? would be no better, as after ...Ne5 black's knight dominates the board and white's pawns are fractured.

The testing try, which I found while analyzing my postal game, was 16.Nd2! Suddenly, the d6-pawn is a big weakness and the knight coming to c4 controls the e5-square as well.

I could find no satisfactory method for black and concluded that 13...g5 was in fact an error. In my postal game, I avoided 13...g5 and played 13...Qc7, offering to repeat the position. My opponent chose something else and I ended up winning the game.

### **16...Be5!**

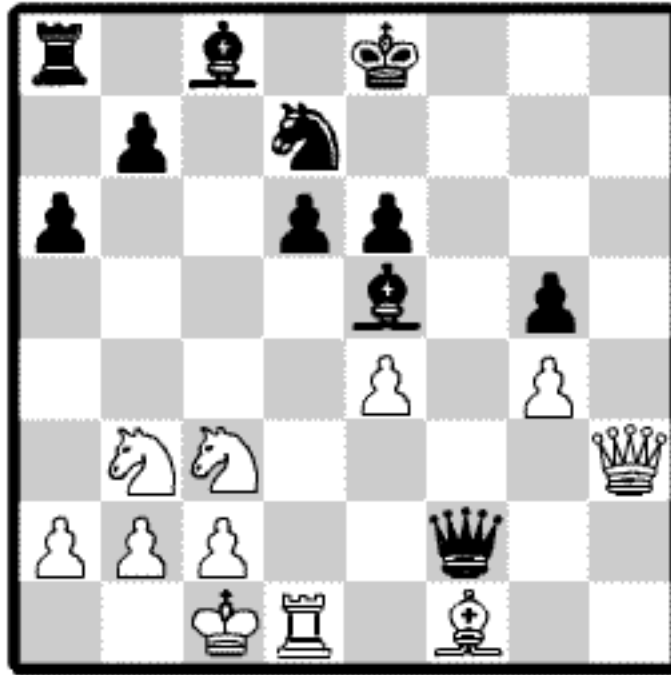
This may seem strange, since black generally bases his play in these types of positions around securing a knight on e5, but here it is the right decision. For starters, after 16...Ne5 17.Qh3 the dark squared bishop is uncomfortably placed and hard to activate. Second, the bishop on e5 absolutely dominates the board. It has no counterpart, and it simultaneously supports the weak d-pawn, threatens to block the f-file if necessary via ...Bf4, and also keeps an eye on the c3-knight. No other minor piece on the board does so much.

### **17.fxe6 fxe6 18.Qh3**

White logically aims at the black kingside via the open h-file. Another plan would have been to attempt to utilize the open f-file, but after 18.Be2 Qd8! black re-deploys his queen to the kingside with good play.

It's important to note that all the long-term prospects are black's. His two bishops are potentially very strong (and his dark-squared bishop already the best minor piece on the board), and white's g and e-pawns are targets. That means that black can defend by offering queen trades.

### **18...Qf2!**



### WHITE'S ATTACK WAS AN ILLUSION

After I played this move, my opponent thought for 16 minutes. I think he was realizing that black was taking control of the game. Black's move maintains his dark square grip while re-deploying the queen to the kingside. Now on Be2 or Bd3 black plays ...Qh2 and, if necessary, ...Qf4+. Black welcomes the trade of queens, since in any endgame the white light-squared bishop will be the worst minor piece on the board because of the e and g-pawns, and black's dark squared bishop will be the best. The other point of black's move is that 19.Qh5+ Qf7 20.Qxg5?? Bf4+ wins the queen.

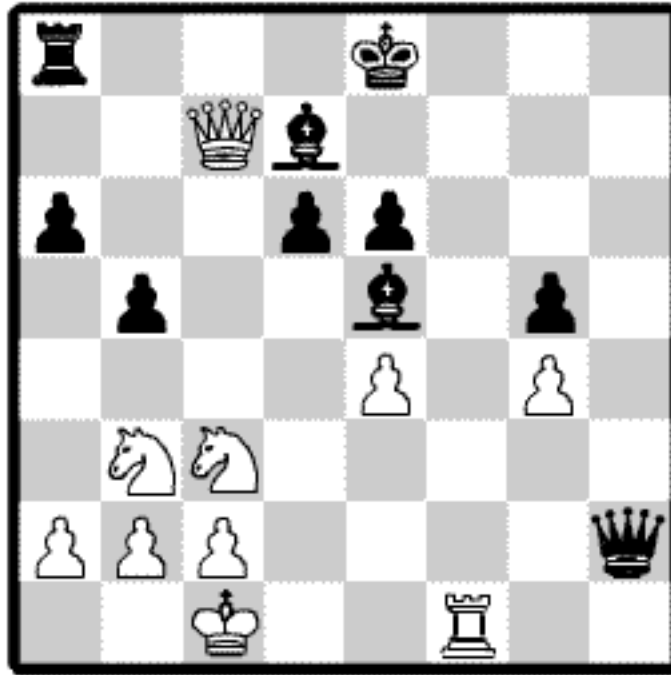
I can probably hear some of the skeptics now. "How can black be better? White is better developed and black's king looks insecure." In the Sicilian, however, black often looks optically bad when in fact his position is quite good.

This is one such example. Although white appears better developed, neither of his knights is doing much and his light squared bishop is severely constricted. Black's position is solid, and if he develops his queen bishop, he's got much better long-term chances.

**19.Bc4 Nb6 20.Rf1 Qh2! 21.Qd3 Nxc4 22.Qxc4 Bd7 23.Qc7!?**

White decides to mix it up, since if black gets to play ...Rc8 white will be totally defensive.

**23...b5**



### BLACK'S e5-BISHOP RULES THE BOARD

#### 24.Kb1

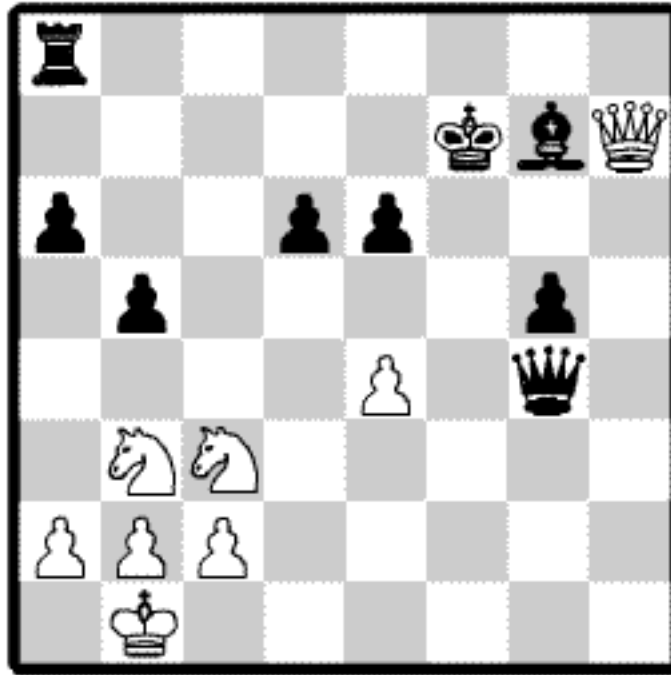
White gets out of ideas based on checking on f4, but it is too slow. A better try was 24. Qb7 Rc8, but white can't play 25.Qxa6 because of 25...b4, or 25.Rf7 because of 25...Bf4 + 26.Kd1 Qg1+ 27.Ke2 Qe3+ 28.Kd1 or Kf1 Qf3+ followed by a bishop check and ... Qxf7. White has to stop for 25.a3, when Bxc3 26.bxc3 Rxc3 27.Nd4 at least muddies the water. Black shouldn't give up his strong dark-squared bishop. After 25...Bf4+! (which removes tactics based on the rook getting to f7) 26.Kb1 Qh3 27.Rd1 Be5 black is clearly better.

#### 24...Qg2 25.Rf7?

White can't hope to get anything out of this, since his knights are so far removed from the action. A better try was 25.Rd1, but after 25...Qxg4 26.Rh1! Rc8 27.Qb7 Qg2! 29. Rh7 Qf1+ 30.Nc1 Rd8. White's problem is that he can't get the rook to the 8th rank, and black intends to just push the g-pawn.

#### 25...Kxf7 26.Qxd7+ Kf6 27.Qh7 Qxg4 28.Qh6+ Kf7 29.Qh7+ Bg7





### IT'S ALL OVER

The threat of ...Rh8 forces back the white queen. With white's knights just spectating, the rest is simple technique – penetrate with the big guns to the seventh and eighth ranks.

**30.Qh1 Rh8 31.Qf1+ Qf4 32.Qg1 Rh2 33.Nd1 Be5 34.Nc1 Qxe4 35.Nd3 Rh1 36.Nxe5+ dxe5, 0-1.**

This win catapulted me into the lead. I ended up winning the state championship by half a point over Weiss.

Opening: B99 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation with 6.Bg5  
**Perenyi Attack**

Perenyi Attack in the Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defense was a very hard weapon during enough time, that the blacks did not guess right to fight with effectiveness. The white sacrifice quality in exchange for a powerful attack against the black K, that takes refuge in the queen side. Several Cuban chess players analyzed the line with thoroughness, and found good resources for the blacks. ***The Brazilian Luiz gives Junior Coast proposes the newness 27.Bh3, that leads to a end of difficult evaluation, in which the white have a pawn of advantage, compensated by a moved away last pawn of the blacks.***

**Perenyi attack in the B99 [ B99 ]**  
**[ Juan S. Morgado (Analysis of Gives to Coast Junior) ]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9,0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 Bf8 16.Rg1**

This play constitutes Perenyi Attack

**16... Bd7 17.Rg7 Bxg7 18.fxg7 Rg8 19.e5 0-0-0 20.exd6 Qb7**

Here we have the first important deviation. The main analyses belong to Cuban chess players. [ 20... Qb6 21.Qxf7 (21.Ne4 Bc6 22.Nxc6 Qxc6 23.Qxf7 Nxe4 24.Qxe6+ Kb8 25.Bg2 Qe8! 26.Qxe8 Rgxe8 27.d7 Rg8 28.Bxe4 complex Rxc7 29.Bf5, Leyva, H-Herrera, I/Holguin/1988/) 21... b4 22.Nce2 Nb7? (22... Ne4? 23.Nxe6± Castilian, C-Herrera, I/Cuba 1989 ; 22... Qxd6) 23.Bh3 Nxd6 24.Qf3 Rxc7 25.Nxe6 Bxe6 26.Bxe6+ Kb8 27.Nd4 Rc7 28.Bd5! (28.Bh3? Nb7-+ Fonseca, To-Herrera, I/Nicaragua/1988/) 28... Rdc8 29.Be6 Rd8 30.Bd5 = ]

**21.Qxf7**

[ also Deserves consideration 21.Qg3 with idea to support the square g2 to place in her B. 21... b4 22.Bg2 Qb6 23.Ne4 complex Nxe4 24.Bxe4 f5 25.Bh1, Efimenko, Z-Poletaev, V/Dnepropetrovsk 1999 ]

**21... b4 22.Nce2**

[ Interesting is 22.Nb1 with idea to maintain diagonal F1-a6 free. 22... Qe4 23.Nb3 Nxb3+ 24.axb3 Qf5 25.Bxa6+± Karlsson, E-Siigur, J/NordBalt Ch I 1996]

## 22... Qd5

[ But not 22... Bb5? 23.Qh5 Qb6 24.Nxb5 Qxb5 25.Nf4 Qb6 26.Qxh7 Qa7 27.d7+ Nxd7 28.Qd3! Rde8 29.Nxe6!+ - Hedberg, K-Torvi, M/Suomi 1989/MON B90 LF; 22... Bc6! 23.Qh5

**A)** 23... Ne4? 24.Nxc6 (24.Nxe6! Rxd6 25.Rxd6 Nxd6 26.N2d4+ -) 24... Qxc6 25.Qxh7± Kereszturi, S-Derlich, K/Budapest 1991/EXT 97;

**B)** 23... Bd5 24.Nxe6? Nxe6 25.Rxd5 Nxg7 26.Qe5± ]

## 23.Nb3

[ If 23.Qf2? again with idea of Bg2 23... Qg5+ 24.Kb1 complex Rxd7 25.Nb3 ]

## 23... Nxb3+ 24.axb3 Qg5+ 25.Kb1 Rxd7 26.Qf2

[ Deserves to analyze with thoroughness the variation 26.Qf3 unique Kb8 27.Nd4? complex ]

## 26... Bb5 27.Bh3!?N



Propose newness by Luiz Da Coast Junior [ knew a very complex variation from 27.Nf4 Rf7 28.Rd4! (28.Bxb5 = Inf. 41/298 ) 28... e5 (28... Bxf1 29.Qxf1 complex Qb5; 28... Rxd6 29.Bxb5 Rxd4 30.Bxa6+ Kb8 31.Qxd4 Qxf4 32.Qb6+ Ka8 33.Bb5

±)

**A)** Now 29.Bh3+ is not so good!

**A1)** 29... Kb7 30.Bg2+;

**A2)** 29... Rdd7 30.Rd5 Qxf4 (30... Rxf4 31.Qa7!+ -) 31.Qb6!+ -;

**A3)** 29... Kb8 30.Rd5 Rg8! (30... Qf6 31.Qc5 exf4 32.Rf5 Qxd6 33.Qxd6+ Rxd6 34.Rxf7 Rd1+ 35.Ka2 Rd2 36.Rxf4 Rxc2 37.Rf8+ Kc7 38.Rf7+ Kd6 =; 30... Rxf4? 31.Qb6+ Ka8 32.Rxe5+ - Estevez-Perez, R/corr 1987, Inf. 45/304 ) 31.Ka2 (31.d7 Qg1 + 32.Qxg1 Rxc1+ 33.Ka2 Bxd7-+; 31.Bg2 Qd8! 32.Rxe5 Rxc2 33.Qxg2 Rxf4-+; 31.Qb6+ Rb7-+) 31... Qxf4 32.Qc5 (32.Qb6+ Rb7-+) 32... Qf2 33.Be6 Qxc5 34.Rxc5 Rfg7 35.Bxg8 Rxc8 36.Rxe5 Rg6-+;

**B)** 29.Rd5! 29... Bxf1 única 30.Qc5+ (30.Qb6 Rb7) 30... Kb7 31.Ne6 Qh4 32.Nxd8+ Qxd8

**B1)** 33.Rxe5 Rd7 34.Qxb4+ Qb6 (34... Ka7 35.Qe4 with contrajuego) 35.Qe4+ Qc6 36.Qb4+ Qb6 =; B2) 33.Qxb4+ 33... Ka8 34.Rxe5 (34.Qe4 complex Rb7) 34... complex Bb5 ]

**27... Qe5 28.Nf4 Rxd6 29.Re1 Qd4**

[ is not good 29... Qf6 30.Qc5+ Rc6 31.Qxb4± ]

**30.Qxd4 Rxd4 31.Nxe6 Rh4**

[ Or 31... Bd7 32.Nxd4 Bxh3 33.c3+ = ]

**32.Nxg7+ Rxh3 33.Re4 Rxh2 34.Rxb4 h5**

The white have an advantage pawn, but the Blacks count on an B better than the N, and on the last Ph. \*

**Kedyk,D (2361) - Nakamura,H (2656) [B99]  
64th New York Masters New York (1), 15.07.2003**

**1.e4**

Already Kedyk had the advantage, as Weeramantry and Nakamura got stuck in traffic and thus Nakamura came to the game with 10 minutes off his clock.

**1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O-O Nbd7 10.g4 h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.h4 g5**



A typical blow in these types of positions, to gain control of the e5 square. However in this particular case, it doesn't seem to be the most accurate path....

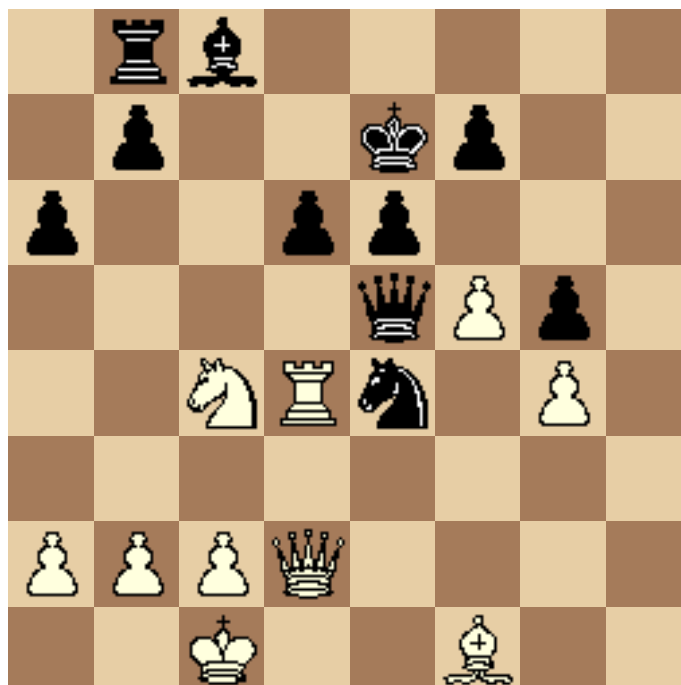
**13.hxg5 hxg5 14.Rxh8+ Bxh8 15.f5 Bxd4 16.Rxd4 Qc5 17.Qd1 Ke7 18.Qd2 Nf6 19.Na4!**



**19...Qe5 20.Nb6 Rb8 21.Nc4**

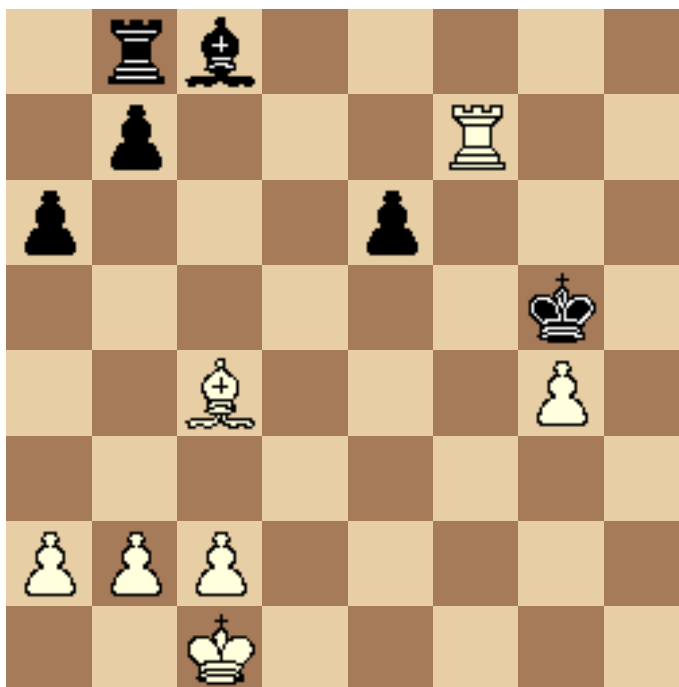
All of the sudden Nakamura's position is looking very perilous. His pieces are undeveloped, and his king is stuck in the center.....meanwhile his queen is wandering around the board.

**21...Nxe4**



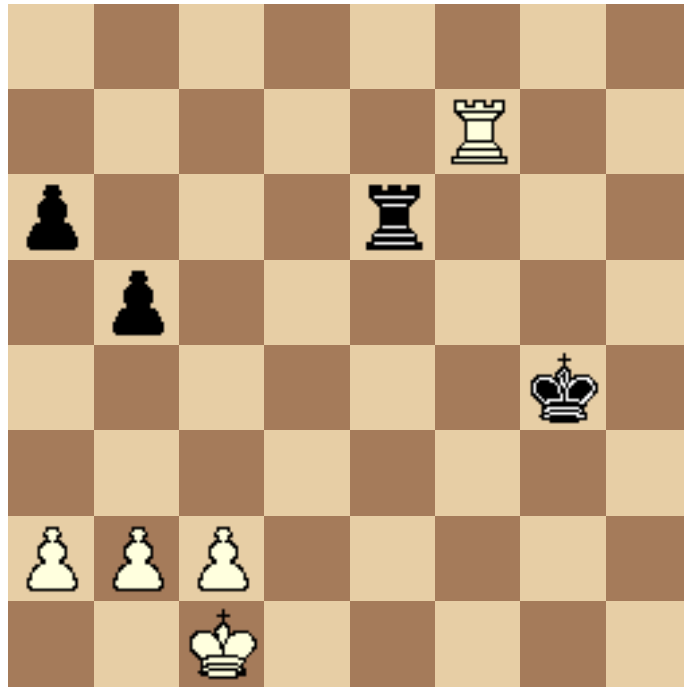
An attempt to bail out into an endgame, however Kedyk takes the fire out of this plan and emerges with an extra pawn.

**22.Qe3 Qf4 23.Qxf4 gxf4 24.Rxe4 d5 25.f6+ Kxf6 26.Rxf4+ Kg5 27.Rxf7 dxc4 28.Bxc4**



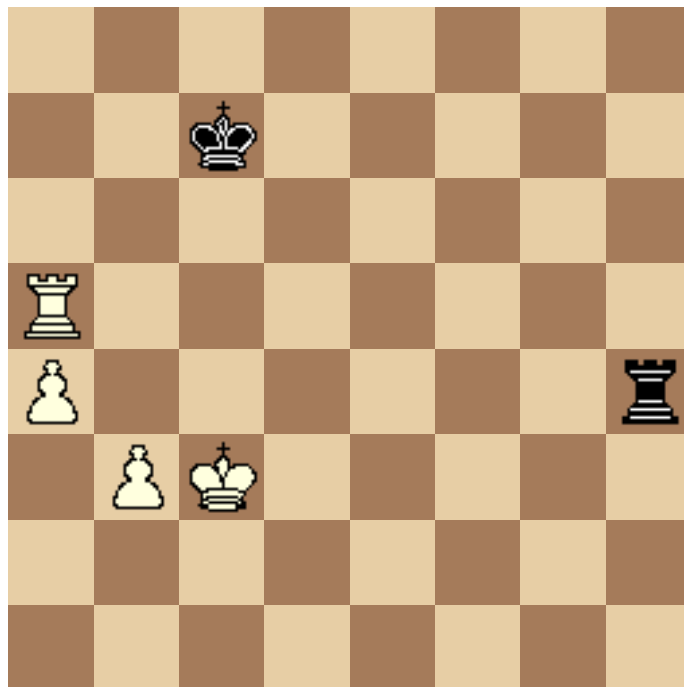
Kedyk now has a very strong endgame advantage, with an extra pawn and an active rook, compared to black's rook and bishop that are still undeveloped!

**28...b5 29.Bb3 Rb6 30.Rc7 Bb7 31.Bxe6 Rxe6 32.Rxb7 Kxg4 33.Rf7!**



The normal reaction in such positions, to cut the king off from the pawns as much as possible. This position is now technically lost, however Nakamura fights on bravely.

**33...Kg5 34.b3 Kg6 35.Rf2 b4 36.Kb2 a5 37.c3 Re8 38.a4 bxc3+ 39.Kxc3 Rc8+ 40.Kd4 Rb8 41.Rf3 Kg5 42.Kc4 Rb4+ 43.Kc3 Rb8 44.Rf7 Rc8+ 45.Kb2 Kg6 46.Rb7 Kf6 47.Rb5 Ra8 48.Kc3 Ke6 49.Kc4 Kd6 50.Rb6+ Kc7 51.Kb5 Ra7 52.Ra6 Rb7+ 53.Kc4 Rb4+ 54.Kc3 Rh4 55.Rxa5**







The **Harding-Lightfoot** game began, as Najdorfs generally do, by rattling out a stream of theory, interrupted by pauses as each player wonders which option to take, so that by the time the diagrammed position was reached we had each probably used up half our time, while still being in known territory.

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7**

I had given up the Poisoned Pawn in the late 1960s after one particularly bad mangling in the line 7...Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 f5. It was much more fun when opponents chose 10 e5, naively thinking they were going to smash you up. Sometimes I had played 7...h6 8 Bh4 Qb6 but objectively it's inferior as Nunn's new magnum opus confirms. If Black doesn't want to play the main line with 7...Be7 there's the Polugaevsky, 7...b5, which Nunn says is playable. But in 1973 that had not really percolated down to the level where I was playing.

**8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nbd7**



Another main division occurs here. This game was played less than six months after the Spassky-Fischer match in Reykjavik. Spassky had played 10 Bd3 here in Game 15, sending theory off in a whole new direction, and I reckoned that Richmond would have concentrated their recent attention on that move. Also I had invested many hours in studying the old 10 g4 without being able to put it into practice before so I stuck to the old ways.

**10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6**



Black has three ways to recapture but I never met 11...gxf6, on which Nunn devotes eight pages to proving an advantage for White. It is interesting to note that Stean's 1976 book says: "As always in these lines, 11...Bxf6? allowing 12 Bxb5 axb5 13 Ndx b5 followed by 14 Nxd6+ would be very good for White." I won a game as White that went this way, against a man called van Dop at the Amsterdam IBM Reserves Masters in 1973; this was never published and Nunn quotes two 1990s examples instead. The two 1980s Nunn books just give 11 Bxf6? 12 Bxb5 in parentheses, so an indication of just how more complete the new book is that Nunn now admits that "This sacrifice does not have the lethal effect once supposed." He gives a column of analysis to show that 12...Rb8! is unclear, so that White might do better with 12 g5. So in the Najdorf you can never be sure that a door has closed forever!

### **12 g5 Nd7**

In this position Nunn says that the main winning try is the pawn offer 13 f5 which indeed I was aware of since those Archives articles, but I never investigated it deeply. 13 a3 was the older move and I chose that.

### **13 a3 Rb8 14 Bh3**

If 10 g4 was one step away from the prevailing fashion of 1973, and 13 a3 the second, then with this move I took a third and even more definite step away from the trendy path. 14 h4 had been introduced circa 1969 but I stuck with the lines I had studied in my schooldays and which I then believed to be superior to their theoretical reputation. In Nunn's book, 14 Bh3 receives just under two pages. Since White threatens to sacrifice his bishop on e6, Black has little choice and the play to move 17 is virtually forced.

### **14...Nc5 15 Rhg1 b4 16 axb4 Rxb4 17 f5 (See Diagram)**



### 17...Qb7

The 1982 book calls this "safest," a comment which has been carried forward into the subsequent Nunn books but I wonder has he really looked closely at the diagram position? The alternatives are 17...Qa5 (comparatively recently introduced), 17...Bd7?! (analysed in the 1988 book only) and 17...Qb6 which invites a fork on d5 (after 18 fxe6 fxe6 19 Nxe6) so that White can get rook and pawn for two minor pieces. About two weeks after the present game I reached the same position again in the League but my lower-rated opponent preferred 17...Qb6 when the 1980s Nunn/Stein assessment "with perhaps an edge for White, but most likely a draw" is a fairly accurate description of what happened after two sessions of play. As Stein wrote, 17...Qb7 is less forcing but avoids the combination and allows the queen to defend along the second rank. Its advantage for White is that it gives White time to cook up something:

### 18 f6 gxf6 19 gxf6 Bf8 20 b3 a5

This was an O'Kelly suggestion, threatening a4, and it's where Stein stopped in his 1976 book. Instead 20 Bh6+ 21 Kb2 Bd7 22 Qh5 Be3 23 Qxh7! Rf8 24 Rg8! +- Buljovic-Bertok, Yugoslav Championship 1965, a reference which resurfaces in Nunn after 25 years forgotten. He also mentions 20...Qb6!?! (See Diagram)

### 21 Nd5!?!?



I have waited 21 years to see this move in a theory book; presumably Nunn found out about it in the CC database he received from Johnson. ECO B gives only 21 Qe3 (unclear) and 21 Rge1? (plain bad). I found 21 Nd5 at the board, by what mental process and at what expenditure of time I cannot recall, but later I searched Bob Wade's library thoroughly for a precedent. Somewhat to my disappointment, I found in the March 1970 issue of Fernschach that it had twice been played in German CC tournaments of the late 1960s. Karl-Heinz Maeder (later a World Correspondence Championship finalist) lost both of them. After that, and the drawn game, mentioned above, I never again tried to play this line but I would be interested to find out whether or not its soundness (or otherwise) can be established. Naturally if you give the position to a computer it will tell you White lacks compensation for the sacrificed piece, but with the long-term exposure of Black's king it's not easy to come to a final conclusion about it.

## 21...exd5

Black has to accept. Breum-Maeder, corr (BdF/M/176) 1967, went 21...a4 22 Qc3 Rxd4 23 Rxd4 exd5 24 Bxc8 Qxc8 25 Rxa4 d4 26 Rxd4 Bh6+ 27 Kb1 Bf4 28 Rd5 (clear White advantage says Nunn) 28 Qe6 29 Qc4 Be5 30 b4 Nb7 31 Qb5+ Qd7 32 Rxe5+ dxe5 33 Qxe5+ Qe6 34 Qxe6+ fxe6 35 Rg7 Nd8 36 b5 1-0.

## 22 exd5!?

This was actually the first new move of the game! Whether it's best I am not sure but no doubt I gave it a lot of thought at the time. W.Frey - Maeder, 11th West German CC Ch prelims 1968-71, went instead 22 Bxc8 Qxc8 23 exd5 Qb7? 24 Rde1+ Kd7? (Frey wrote in Fernschach that Black must play 24...Kd8.) 25 Rg7 Kc8 26 Re8+ Kd7 27 Rb8!! (27 Qe2 Qxd5) 27 Qxb8 28 Rxf7+ Ke8 29 Qh5 1-0. The critical point here is Black's 23rd move. Frey wrote that 23 Rxd4 is the alternative and Nunn's new book then gives 24 Rxd4 Nd7 unclear. My notes show that when I demonstrated this game to Stean, he suggested 23...a4 24 Rde1+ Kd7 e.g. 25 Qg4+ Kc7 26 Ne6+ Qxe6 27 Qxb4 Qxd5 unclear. My move avoids this line and, by postponing the bishop exchange, gives Black

more to think about, a good practical point against the clock.

## 22...Bxh3

Nunn also cites another correspondence game Fechner-August (East German Ch 1975) which went 22...Rxd4 23 Rxd4 Nd7 24 Qc3 Nb6 25 Re1+ Kd8 26 Bxc8 Bh6+ 27 Kb1 Qxc8 28 Qxa5 with an edge to White according to Nunn. The remaining moves were 28 Qc5 29 Qa1 Bg5 30 Rd3 Re8 31 Rxe8+ Kxe8 32 Rg3 Qxd5 33 Qc3 Kd7 34 Rg1 Bd2 35 Qh3 + Kc7 36 Rd1 Qe4 37 Qh5 Bc3 38 Qxf7+ Nd7 39 Qd5 Qxd5 40 Rxd5 Nxf6 41 Rd3 Be5 42 Rf3 Kc6 43 c4 Kc5 44 Kc2 Kd4 45 h3 Nh5 46 Rf7 h6 47 Rc7 Nf4 48 Rh7 h5 49 Rh6 Kc5 50 Rh7 draw.

## 23 Qxh3 a4?

This is where Black finally goes wrong, overlooking the reply no doubt. He doesn't have time to launch a queenside counter-attack but must look to the defence of his king. I analysed this game with Wade later and he came up with 23...Qd7 24 Rde1+ Kd8 25 Ne6+! Kc8 26 Qc3 unclear/White advantage (Fritz4 disagrees); maybe 24 Qe3+ is better.

## 24 Nc6!



This takes away the d8 flight square and covers e7 so Re1+ becomes a deadly threat. Black's reply is forced after which White regains his piece with a winning position since Black's king's rook and bishop remain idle bystanders.

**24... Re4 25 Rde1 Qd7 26 Rxe4+ Nxe4 27 Qe3 Qf5 28 Re1 Qxd5 29 Nb4 Qf5 30 Qxe4+ Qxe4 31 Rxe4+ Kd7 32 bxa4 Rg8**

Here, as was the way with League games in those days (the time control was at move 30), the game was adjourned and Black resigned without resuming (1 0).

**HIARCS5 - Quinn  
Match (g4) 1996**

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9  
000 Nbd7 10 g4**



The modern preference, going for a pawn storm on the kingside. No definite conclusion has been reached about this line but Black has not been having an easy time of it.

**10...b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 f5 Bxg5+**

Supposedly the best for Black. The old line is 13...Nc5 but then 14 f6 gf 15 gf Bf8 16 Rg1! intending Rg7 is very dangerous.

**14 Kb1 Ne5 15 Qh5 Qe7 16 Nxe6**



Alternatively White can play either 16 Rg1 or 16 fe at this point.

16...Bxe6 17 fe g6 18 ef+ Kxf7 19 Qe2 Kg7 20 Nd5 Qd8 21 Qf2



Once again both sides have followed one of the main highways of theory. Another razor-sharp Najdorf in which Nunn's book mentions 21 Qe1 (intending 22 h4) 21...Bh4 22 Qc3 which is rather similar. I wouldn't be suprised if the text hasn't also been played.

21...Rf8 22 Qd4 Bf6

Hereabouts I don't like the way that Black played it. Perhaps 22...Rc8 is better.

23 Be2 Kg8 24 Rdf1 Bg7 25 Rxf8+ Kxf8?!

25...Qxf8 26 Nc7 Rc8 27 Nxa6 Nc4 28 Qd5+ Kh8 looks like a better try for Black.

26 Rf1+ Kg8 27 Nc7!



Neatly winning a pawn. Presumably this took Black by suprise.



**27...Rc8 28 Qd5+ Kh8 29 Nxa6 Nc4 30 Bxc4 bc 31 Qb7?!**

Having won material HIARCS decentralises the queen and some difficulties appear. I prefer 31 c3, creating a support square for your knight on b4.

**31...Qg8 32 h4 Rf8 33 Rxf8 Qxf8 34 a4 c3! 35 b4?!**



winning material on move 27.

**44...c1=Q 45 Nxc1 Qxc1 46 a6 Qf1+ 47 Ka5 Qa1+ 48 Kb6 Qd4+**

Black exchanges queens in order to safely play ...g6-g5 and obtain his own passed pawn.

**49 Qxd4 Bxd4+ 50 Kc7 g5! 51 hg h4 52 b5**



The b-pawn must go to b6 in order to shield the a7 square from Black's bishop.

**52...h3 53 b6 h2 54 a7 Be5+ 55 Kd7 h1=Q 56 a8=Q**

Reaching an endgame which should really be drawn. Of course White has whatever practical chances are going because of his passed pawns.

**56...Qh3+ 57 Ke7 Qh4 58 Ke6 Qxg5 59 Qf8 Bg3 60 Qf7+ Kh8 61 Qf6+ Qxf6+ 62 Kxf6 Bb8**



62...Kg8 fails because of 63 e5! Bf2 64 b7 Ba7 65 Ke7 Bb8 66 e6 followed by 67 Kd7 and 68 e7.

**63 Kf7 Be5 64 Ke6 Bb8 65 Kf7 Be5 66 Ke6 Bb8 67 Kd7**

A 'winning attempt' of no consequence. But perhaps HIARCS had an eye on the clock situation when it repeated the position.

**67...Kg7 68 Ke7 Be5 69 b7 Bb8 70 Ke6 Kf8 71 Kd7 Kf7 72 Kc6 1:0**

Presumably on time. After 72...Ke6 the position is a simple draw.

# HIARCS5 - Quinn Match (g3) 1996

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 O-O-0 Nbd7 10 Bd3 b5 11 Rhe1 Bb7 12 Qg3



Thus far everything is theory with White's last move having been introduced in the 1972 Spassky - Fischer match in Reykjavik as an intended refinement on the immediate 12 Nd5!?. It looks like Quinn wanted to see if HIARCS would actually sacrifice the knight, which isn't typical for computers.

**12...b4 13 Nd5!**

Indeed it does. As with the move 8 Nxe6 in the Deeper Blue - Kasparov game, this move is known theory, but HIARCS has been known to think up sacrificial ideas all of its own.

**13...ed 14 e5 de 15 fe Nh5 16 Qh4?!**



This has all been well analysed by the theoreticians and White's choice at this point is between the text and 16 e6. 16 e6 Nxf3 17 ef+ Kxf7 18 Rxe7+ Kg8 19 hg Qxg3 20 Ne6 Qe5 21 Rf1 Nf8 leads to a draw according to John Nunn in his 'Najdorf for the Tournament Player' whilst he considers the text to be less good.

**16...Bxg5+ 17 Qxg5 g6 18 e6 Nc5?!**



According to Nunn the key move at this point is 18...Ndf6! after which he claims to have found no way for White to achieve a draw. He quotes the game Zukerfeld-Darcyl, Mendoza 1985 which went 18...Ndf6 19 ef+ Kxf7 20 Ne6 Qd7 21 Nc5 Qc8 22 Rf1 Qxc5 23 g4 Rae8 24 Rf3 Kg7 25 gh Nxh5-+.

**19 ef+ Kxf7 20 Rf1+ Kg8 21 Nf5 Ne6**



Forcing White to take a draw.

**22 Nh6+ Kg7 23 Nf5+ Kg8 24 Nh6+ Kg7 25 Nf5+ Kg8 draw**



**V. Rajlich - K. Wight**  
**[B99/03] Sicilian: Najdorf**  
**19 June 1999, Toronto**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9. O-O-O Nbd7 10.Be2**



In a previous tournament my opponent and I had drawn in the 10.g4 line with 10...b5 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.g5 Be7 13.f5 Bxg5+, and I concluded that line is just too drawish.

**10...b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.e5 Bb7 13.Qg3 dxe5 14.fxe5 Nd7 15.Bxb5 axb5 16. Ndx5 Qb6**



defending e6 against the eventual Qxf7, is actually slightly inferior to 16...Qc5 with the

idea of 17.Qxg7 Qxe5 18.Nc7+ Qxc7 19.Qxh8+ Nf8 when Black is at least equal despite the slight material deficit and the seemingly exposed king since his counterplay is not far away.

**17.Qxg7 O-O-O 18.Qxf7**



I thought for 30-45 minutes about the obvious 18.Qxf7, I had trouble with the line 18.Qxf7 Bg5+ 19.Kb1 Nxe5 20.Qg7 Bf4. I finally found 21.Nd6+! and now 21...Kb8 22.Ne2 (though here perhaps 22...Bd5 is fine) or maybe 22.Na4. I also considered 18.Kb1 where Black is fine after 18...Rdf8 19. Rhf1 Rhg8 20.Qxh7 Nxe5.

**Bg5+ 19.Kb1 Nxe5 20.Qg7 Ng6 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8**



was a mistake. At the board I spent most of my time on 21...Rxd8 and concluded that White was doing well after 22.Qxh7 etc. Neither of us seriously considered what is really the only viable move, 21...Qxd8, with the idea of 22.Rd1 Qe7. This position has



been played on several occasions. White probably has a small edge after 23.Qd4, but the Black position also seems to have a few advocates. After 21...Bxd8 Black is completely passive and White's game plays itself.

**22.Rd1 Bd5 23.a4 Qc5 24.Nxd5 exd5 25.c4 Rf8 26.cxd5 Bg5 27.d6 Qf5+ 28.Ka1 Qc2 29.Nc3 Bd8 30.Qa7 1-0.**

this game was a relatively quiet positional effort. Only one piece was sacrificed, White got three pawns for it right away, and Black never even equalized. I prepared this line right before the round, and he played right into it.

# Ader - Fischer [B99]

## Santiago Santiago, 1959

**1.e4 c5** The Sicilian Defense **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6** Nf6 attacks the e-pawn  
**5.Nc3** Defending the pawn. The sequence prohibits c2-c4 and the Maroczy bind (pawns on c4 and e4). **5...a6** The Najdorf variation. **6.Bg5** Fischer tried many different moves here, but used mostly Bc4 and Bg5 **6...e6** idea Be7 **7.f4** idea Qf3 **7...Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0** All standard stuff **9...Nbd7 10.f5** More common is g2-g4, Bxf6 and g5 **10...e5** A normal reaction. Black creates a hole on d5, but the f5-pawn now blocks the normal Nf5 **11.Nb3 b5** idea b4 and Bb7 with pressure upon the fixed e4-pawn. **12.a3** To prevent b4, but a3 weakens the queenside. **12...Bb7** Two attacks upon e4 **13.h4 Rc8** Delaying ...0-0, which would give white a target for the attack. Black is preparing the ...d5 break and stops Nd5 (Qxc2#) **14.Bd3** Over-protecting both c2 and e4 **14...h5!** A lovely move, stopping g2-g4 and, in fact, stealing the g4 square for the Nf6 **15.Kb1 Nb6** Idea Nc4xb2 and Qxc3 **16.Nd2** Trying to stop Nc4 **16...Ng4** Trading the bad Be7 for white's good Bg5 **17.Bxe7 Qxe7** idea Rxc3! **18.Nf1**



**18...Rxc3! 19.bxc3 d5** threat Qxa3 **20.Qe2 0-0** Bringing the rook to the c-file and securing the king. **21.Bxb5** desperation **21...axb5 22.Qxb5 Nc4** Holding all material and threatening both Nf2 and Nxa3 **23.Qb4** Stopping the biggest threat, but offering a path to simplification **23...Qxb4+ 24.cxb4 Nf2 25.Ng3 Nxa3+ 26.Kb2 Nc4+ 27.Kb3 Ne3** Marvelous technique **28.Rd2 Nxh1 29.Nxh1 dxe4** A full piece ahead and with the initiative **30.Ng3 Bd5+ 31.Ka4 Ra8+ 32.Kb5 Rb8+ 33.Kc5 Rc8+ 34.Kd6 Nc4+ [34...Bb7] 35.Kd7 Nxd2 36.Kxc8 Bc4** The white pawns cannot safely advance, and the advance of the black e-pawn will win the knight. **0-1**

**V. Rajlich - B. Marthi**  
**[B99/02] Sicilian: Najdorf**  
**18 June 1999, Toronto**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Be7 9.  
Qf3 Qc7 10.O-O-O Nbd7 11.Be2 b5**



is thought to be suspicious, so 11...Rb8 and 11...g5 are normal.

**12.e5 Bb7 13.exf6 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bxf6 15.Bxf6 Rc8 16.Bxg7**

The queen sac by White is best as The bishop sac 16.Bxg7, since 16.Bh4 b4 is good for Black.

**16...Rh7 17.f5**



is enough for a big edge for White, but even better is 17.Bh5 as 17...Rxc7 18.Nxe6 Qc4

19.Rhe1 is crushing for White and If 17...Qc5 then 18.f5 Rxc7 19.Nxe6 Qe3+ 20.Kb1 and White is winning.

**17...Rxc7 18.f5 Ne5 19.Rhe1**



was a mistake which only draws. The three forcing variations 19.Nd5, 19.Nf5 and 19.Bh5 were all good for Black, i.e. 19.Nd5 Qc5 20.b4 Qc4 21.Nb6 Qc3 (White of course wouldn't play 20.b4 in light of this, but then 19.Nd5 should wait), or 19.Nf5 fxe6 20.Nxd6+ Kf8 21.Nxc8 Qxc8 and Black is at least a little better, or 19.Bh5 Rxc2 20.exf7+ Kd7 and Black is active while White's f7-pawn doesn't seem like a big deal. Much better for White was 19.Rhf1, the point being that after 19...Nxf3 20.Rxf3 White threatens exf7+, forcing 20...fxe6 21.Nxe6 Qe7 22.Nxc7+ Qxc7 when White is considerably better.

**19...Nxf3 20.gxf3 Rg2 21.Nf5**



21.Nd5 would have been best, when Black should force the draw with 21...Qxc2+. But if 21...Qc5, then White wins with 22.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Re7+ Kg8 23.Nf6+ Kf8 24.Re2.

**21...fxe6 22.Rxe6+ Kf8 23.Rf6+ Kg8 24.Ne3 Rxh2 25.Kb1 Qc5 26.Ng4**



26.Nd5 gives White some chances as after 26...Rxc2 27.Rg1+ ( 27.Ne7+ Kg7 28.Nxc8 Kxf6 29.Nxc2 Qxc8 with a hopeless ending for White ) 27...Kh7 28.Rxh6+ Kxh6 29.Nf5+ Kh7 30.Nf6+ Kh8 31.Rh1+ Rh2 32.Rxh2+#. But Black may be winning after something besides 26...Rxc2.

**26...b4 27.Nxh2 bxc3 28.Rg6+ Kf7 29.Rdxd6 Qf2**

29...Qe3 intending to exchange the queen with the two rooks if white try to force draw and then the endgame is winning for white.

**30.Rgf6+ 1/2-1/2.**

# FM Morris Giles (2451)

## GM Walter Browne (2617)

Sicilian B98

U.S. Open - Boston (10)

Boston, USA, 1988

Giles' victory over GM Walter Browne came at a time when Black players in the U.S. had just begun to shine. Emory Tate was already a known figure, but players like Maurice Ashley (native of Jamaica) and Ron Buckmire (native of Grenada) were up-and-coming stars and both were subjects of interviews in U.S. Chess Life magazine. This game put FM Morris Giles on the map in a hurry!

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Nbd7 9. Bc4!?**

While white has scored well in this line, the placement of the bishop is somewhat discouraged because it could become a target after moves like ...Qc7, ...b5, and tactical shots in the center. More common is 9.Bd3 or even 9.Be2, but Giles had evil intent.

**9... h6**

If Browne had NOW played 9... Qc7 Giles most certainly would've pounced with 10. Bxe6! fxe6 11. Nxe6 Qb6 12. Nxg7+ and Black's position is in shambles. This is a common sac in these positions as well as a multitude of other Sicilian variations. There is an old book by David Levy titled, "Sacrifices in the Sicilian" which covers all the different sacs arising from common Sicilian positions.

10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. O-O-O Qb6 12. Nxe6!?



This is another one of those sacs designed to destroy the black's king's position, confine it in the center, and pound away with the heavy pieces.

**12... fxe6 13. Bxe6 Nf8 14. Bb3 Be6 15. e5!**

This move keeps the pressure on and prevents Black from unraveling his position by scurrying to the queenside.

**15... dxe5 16. fxe5 Bg5+**

It appears as if Black has wiggled out of danger by a tempo, but notice how his king is dangerously confined on the e-file due to heavy pieces bearing down on d- and f-files.

**17. Kb1 Rd8 18. h4! Be7 18... Rxd1+ 19. Rxd1 Bxh4?? 20. Qh5+ 19. Ba4+!**



Giles keeps the pressure with more hammer blows!

**19... Nd7**

Perhaps 19... Rd7 was worth a try.

**20. Nd5 Qa5 21. Rhf1! Rf8 22. Qh5+ Rf7**

Now Black may be trying to make a dash to the kingside.

**23. Bb3 g6??**

Browne, who is chronically in time pressure, appears to panic and may have been able to hold with 23... Nxe5 24. Qxe5 Rxf1 25. Rxf1 Bxd5 After this error, Black is hit with a sudden barrage of missiles from every direction.

**24. Qxg6 Nf8**

Allowing a picture book ending with...

**25. Nc7+! Qxc7**

Black has formed a fortress around his king, but this false sense of security is soon shattered on White's next move. Do you see it?





## 26. Qxf7+!

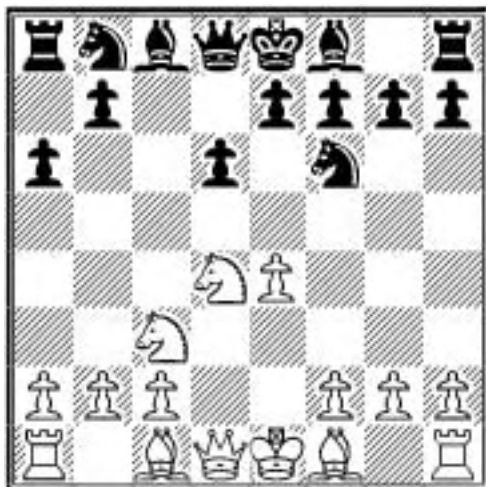
Beautiful! This game appeared in U.S. Chess Life and was the talk of many conversations for some time. After scoring 9-3 in this tournament, FM Giles appeared in top form. However, his activity waned and he may have played in only one other National... the 1989 U.S. Open in Chicago. Giles would play the sharpest lines but you had a sense that he was in control of the position... amazingly calm. I remember playing Giles in set of blitz games at a Chicago Industrial Chess League banquet, and I tried desperately to smash his Sicilian Najdorf with sacs blazing everywhere... to no avail. Tough to beat, and just a nice individual. See Chess Crackers (July-August 2002) tribute to FM Morris Giles! 1-0 [Shabazz D.]

# Najdorf Poisoned Pawn

## Is the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn Edible?

A recent email tournament game caused me to take a completely new look at a variation I first analysed as a teenager in the 1960s. Somewhat to my surprise, and defying the advice of friends who preferred Black's chances to avoid the line, I managed to defeat a higher-rated ICCF international master who played the Poisoned Pawn against me. Let us have a little history before the theory, to provide context for readers who are unfamiliar with this variation. The Najdorf Variation arises after

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6.**



Black's fifth move serves various purposes: it can be a fulcrum for a ...b7-b5 advance, it can help shelter the black queen on c7 and it rules out bishop checks on b5. The primary intention behind the move, however, was to keep the d4-knight out of b5, so that Black could continue ...e7-e5 against likely White replies such as 6 Be2, 6 Be3, 6 f4 and 6 g3. It can be seen as a refinement of the Boleslavsky Variation (5...Nc6 6 Be2 e5) which is respected but seldom seen because White can avoid it by 6 Bg5 (Richter-Rauzer) or 6 Bc4 (Sozin).

In the early 1960s, when I started to play competitive chess, the Najdorf Variation was enormously popular at all levels of chess, not least because Bobby Fischer was so successful with it. This popularity continued well into the 1970s and really has never ceased, although White's methods against the variation and Black's responses have mutated over the years. In recent years, 6 Be3 has perhaps become the most popular anti-Najdorf move with 6 f4 also showing signs of making a comeback. In the mid-1960s and 1970s, however, attention was mostly concentrated on two aggressive moves for White, namely 6 Bc4 and 6 Bg5. You will note that these are the same two

moves by which White can avoid the Boleslavsky variation. The two moves have very different aims, but they share one feature: both moves effectively rule out Najdorf's original ...e5 idea. Against 6 Bc4 it would be unwise to play ...e5 because the actively posted bishop immediately threatens the weak spot f7, as well as controlling d5.

Against 6 Bg5 the move ...e5 is also undesirable because it creates a self-pin and d5 will fall strongly under White's control. Compared with the Sveshnikov variation (2...Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 a6) the moves ...a6 has not been played with a direct threat and the white knight is not driven to the edge of the board.

Therefore, in the Najdorf variation, **6 Bg5** is almost invariably met by **6...e6** (6...Nbd7 having been discarded on account of 7 Bc4). In turn, after a brief flirtation with Nezhmetdinov's 7 Qf3, and recognising that the Rauzer move 7 Qd2 is ineffective against 7...h6, White almost invariably replies **7 f4**, which creates the threat of e4-e5 (possibly not at once but it hangs in the air).



The main theoretical debates on the **6 Bg5 e6 7 f4** line revolve around how Black meets this threat. A simple unpin by 7...Qc7 is possible but seems to pose little threat to White. The move 7...h6 is possible but after 8 Bh4 Black still has to decide on his plan and the square g6 may prove to have been weakened and the scope of the black king's bishop restricted. In the early games, the unpin by 7...Be7 and the more flexible move 7...Nbd7 (covering e5 for the time being) received the most attention, and a sequence combining these two ideas was very popular (7...Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nbd7 10 g4 b5) as was a variant on this where White plays 10 Bd3, e.g. Spassky- Fischer, game 15, Reykjavik 1972.

Apart from the 7...Be7 line, two treatments for Black have had the best theoretical reputation. Both involve a much more radical approach. One of them is the Polugaevsky variation 7...b5 (Black says "OK you can play 8 e5 but it does not win a piece") and the other is the Poisoned Pawn, **7...Qb6** where Black unpins with an active queen move and White in turn offers a gambit by 8 Qd2. (White can, and sometimes does, meet 7...Qb6 by 8 Nb3, but this ducks the main issue and the black queen can later go to c7 without

loss of time, because the b3-knight is decentralised. It is also possible to play the sneaky 8 a3, when 8...Qxb2 loses the Queen to 9 Na4, but against sensible replies. 8 a3 hardly achieves anything constructive.) After **8 Qd2 Qxb2** Black has won a pawn. On the other hand, he has defied three pieces of advice commonly given to novices:



- a) Don't bring out your queen too early;
- b) Don't make several moves with the same piece before completing you development;
- c) Don't grab b-pawns.

That is why the variation acquired the name the 'Poisoned Pawn'. General maxims for novices do not, however, White, carry much weight in ultra-sharp lines like the Najdorf where only strong moves count. White must now prove that his gambit really is venomous.

There are four distinct approaches White can adopt in the diagram position:

- I a) 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 e5;
- I b) 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 f5;
- I c) 9 Rb1 Qa3 met more positionally by 10 Bxf6 or 10 Be2;
- I d) 9 Nb3.

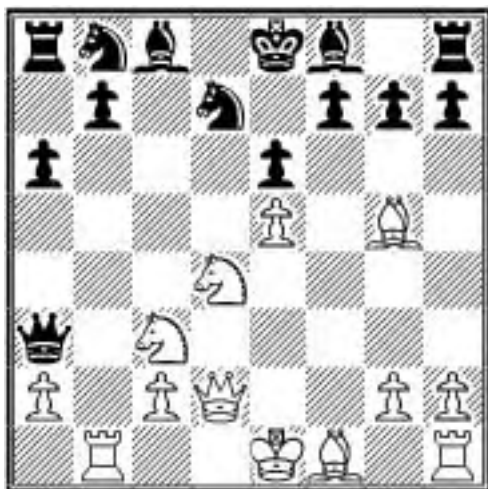
The first three of these plans involve White making the "obvious" move 9 Rb1 but it is not really clear that the rook will have anything positive to do on the b-file which will remain closed for the foreseeable future. When I first studied the Poisoned Pawn in the late 1960s, 9 Rb1 was almost an automatic choice. I wrote an article for Bob Wade's magazine *Chessman Quarterly* and Bob provided material to GM O'Kelly to assist his research in one of the earliest Batsford books, which dealt with the Najdorf.

After 9...Qa3 White often tried to win the game by direct attack with 10 e5, but Fischer, O'Kelly and others showed that this would rebound on him. The alternative 10 Bxf6 was introduced as an attempt to gain positional compensation for the pawn, while 10 f5 became the new main attacking line. The alternative 9 Nb3 was little seen in the early

days of the Poisoned Pawn but its merits became clearer when it featured in the 1972 Spassky-Fischer match. White protects the rook, uses the Knight to restrict the black queen's mobility and soon Black usually has to play ...Qa3 soon anyway.

When the diagrammed position arose last November in my game with Jorg Kracht, from the ICCF Delegates and Officials IM-A tournament, I had to spend a long time on research. I suspected that I would end up playing 9 Nb3, but I decided to work on the basis of eliminating alternatives and went back to look at the old lines first. I looked up my old articles and O'Kelly's book, together with the last John Nunn book on the variation (dating from 1996) and all the games I could find that had been played since Nunn wrote his book. This was quite a lot of material, as you can imagine! However, I found that Nunn's *The Complete Najdorf 6 Bg5* was still quite useful — since once a try by White has been refuted in the Poisoned Pawn, it tends to stay refuted.

My first hope was that something might turn up in the lines following **9 Rb1 Qa3 10 e5 dxe5 11 fxe5 Nfd7**, although even if it did, White would then have to recheck 10...h6.



In this position, White has two tries, namely 12 Bc4 and 12 Ne4!?. In the 1960s, White's hopes rested mostly on 12 Bc4 because lines like 12...Be7 13 Bxe6 and 12...Nxe5 13 Nxe6 were good fun. It seems, however that 12...Bb4 is somewhat better for Black and possibly 12...Qa5 is even stronger although it is very complicated e.g. 13 0-0 Nxe5 (13...Bc5 14 Bxe6!) 14 Rbe1 Nxc4 15 Qf4 Nd6 16 Ne4 Qc7 17 c4 Nb5!?. (17...h6 18 Nf5 hxg5 is also playable.)

I did not see any prospect of finding an improvement for White where Fischer and others had trodden long ago, but I thought 12 Ne4!? was worth more attention. After looking at quite a lot of detail here, I decided that it was not reliable enough for a correspondence master tournament.

After 12 Ne4 Black can take the a-pawn or attack the bishop by 12...h6:

a) 12...Qxa2 13 Rb3 when after 13...Nc6 14 Nxc6 bxc6 Nunn's book shows White has

two promising tries in 15 Qc3 and 15 Bc4. Or 13...Qa4 14 Bb5!? Qa1+ 15 Kf2 Qxh1 16 Qa5 f6 17 exf6 axb5 18 fxg7 Rxa5 19 gxh8Q Qxh2 20 Rf3 1-0 was S.Goldshtein-J. Russell, IECC Email 2000. This shows what can happen to Black if he is careless but possible improvements are 14...axb5 and 16...f5. Perhaps more to the point, 13...h6 looks playable.

b) 12...h6 can be met in two ways:

b1) Nunn said 13 Rb3 Qa4 is good for Black but White seems to win in practice, so at first I thought this needed more investigation. Then I noticed that 13...Qxa2 returns to my suggestion in line a.

b2) 13 Bb5!? axb5! 14 Nxb5 hxg5 15 Nxa3 Rxa3 and nothing seems to have been discovered in recent years to overturn Nunn's view that Black's three pieces should be superior to White's queen. Therefore, I rejected the 10 e5 line.

In an ordinary game, especially at fast time limits, all kinds of combinations and swindles are possible. One of the hazards of playing the Poisoned Pawn is forgetting the analysis and playing a plausible losing move in a theoretically good position. In a correspondence game, whether by post or email, the opponent is not under clock or time pressure and can consult both printed sources and databases; he can even use the computer to analyse positions that may arise. Therefore speculative or unsound play is not really an option.

If you look at almost any Poisoned Pawn position with a program like Fritz, it will tell you Black is better because of the extra pawn, so it can be depressing to use a computer in the hunt for good continuations for White. It is better to switch it off and use your brain until you have a definite idea worth testing.

Any lines proposed by a computer engine have to be re-evaluated anyway. Where a computer can be useful is in showing you what line your opponent may be planning (if he is relying on the machine more than you are); if you can find a weakness in a computer proposal, you may be able to take advantage.

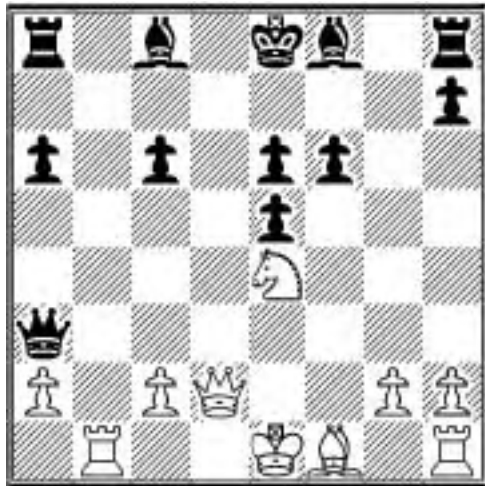
Moving on, I decided not to spend so much time analysing the lines with 10 Bxf6 and 10 Be2. I had no special knowledge of these from before, and it seemed to me that they were primarily attempts to keep the positional rational. As winning attempts in a correspondence game, they did not offer so much.

I actually found a game my opponent had won against 10 Be2. E.Sowden- J.Kracht, Bernard Partridge Memorial corr, 1995, continued 10...Nbd7 11 0-0 Qc5 12 Kh1 Be7 13 f5 e5 14 Ne6 fxe6 15 fxe6 Nb6 16 Bxf6 gxf6 17 Rxb6 Qxb6 18 Nd5 Qc5.



White was following *Nunn's Chess Openings* (p.255 note 22) which stops here, saying "unclear". However, White has lost every correspondence game in my database from this position (0/8). Sowden-Kracht ended 19 Bh5+ Kd8 20 Qh6 Qc4 21 Kg1 Bxe6 22 Qg7 Bxd5 0-1.

I had higher hopes of the 10 f5 line, against which I once lost a game in Oxford in the late 1960s. However, theory has developed in a fairly definite way and once more it did not seem likely that surprises could be found. After the long-established continuation 10...Nc6 11 fxe6 fxe6 12 Nxc6 bxc6 13 e5 dxe5 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Ne4 the next diagram position arises.



Here Black has tried a few moves. If he takes the third pawn by 15...Qxa2 then a draw is likely after 16 Rd1 Be7 17 Be2 0-0 18 0-0 f5 19 Qh6 Qxc2 20 Rd3 e.g. 20...Qxe2 21 Rg3+ Kf7 22 Rxf5+ exf5 23 Rg7+ Ke8 24 Qxc6+ kd8 25 Qb6+ ½-½ Velimirovic-Ftacnik, Vrsac 1981.

Instead of this, 15...Qe7 is probably refuted but 15...Be7 16 Be2 h5 17 Rb3 Qa4 18 Nxf6 + Bxf6 19 c4 is a serious obstacle. A piece and pawn in arrears, and still not castled, White may yet have compensation, but certainly no spectacular win. Once more, it seemed to me that it is unlikely anything new can be found here and Black seems to

have at least a draw. Reluctantly, I decided that **9 Nb3** would have to be the move. There was a game Boll-Sanakoev, from a correspondence world championship, which I could follow for a few moves if I could not find anything better. One advantage of 9 Nb3 is that if Black replies 9...Nc6 then White can (if he wants) head for a slightly favourable endgame with 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 Na4 Qa3 12 Nb6 Rb8 13 Nc4, so I was not surprised when my opponent quickly replied **9...Qa3** (9...Nbd7 is also possible). Now after **10 Bxf6 gxf6** (see next diagram) it was time for another big research session and long think.



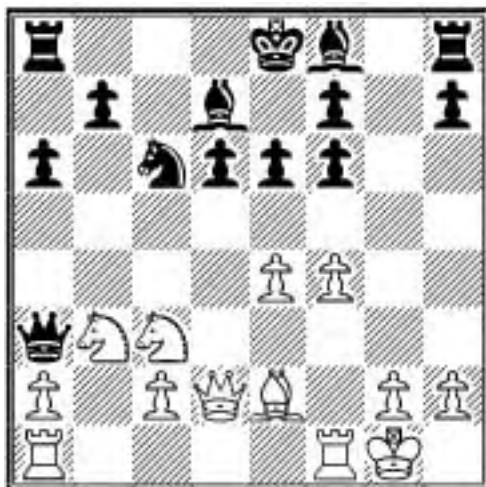
Here White has to decide where to develop his king's bishop; on e2 or d3. It is also possible to play 11 f5 at once, but 11...Nd7 12 Be2 h5 13 O–O Nc5 14 Kh1 Bd7 15 Rab1 Rc8 was good for Black in Merdinian-Tringov, Plovdiv 1977, and moreover he can play 11...Nc6. So I tried first to make 11 Bd3 work, as Nunn had hinted it might be good, citing a postal game Geenen-Delabie. The more I looked at 11...Nd7 12 O-O Nc5 13 Kh1 Bd7 14 f5 the more obvious it became that the suggested improvement on Delabie's play, 14...Rc8 15 fxe6 fxe6, was good. It has often been suggested and may bust the line. White has practical chances but in CC they seem insufficient even to draw. For example, 16 Qf4 Bg7! or 16 Ne2 Bg7 followed by castling.

So I continued on the basis of eliminating alternatives and followed the Dutch master Peter Boll, playing **11 Be2** without analyzing it at this stage. As Nunn explains, Black has a major strategic decision coming up: whether to play ...h7-h5 or not. If he is going to play ...h5, he can do so at move 11, 12 or 13. Until you know whether he will do this, you cannot really analyse because there is just such a vast amount of material that it is easier for White to react than act. The idea of playing ...h5 is to keep the white bishop out of that square and to remain in the centre with the black king. Kracht (and Boll's opponent Sanakoev), on the other hand, chose the alternative plan in which Black aims to castle kingside.

Since, in this game, my opponent never played ...h5, I have done a huge amount of research and analysis on the other lines and virtually none on 11/12/13...h5. In view of the outcome of my game, I think Black might prefer the ...h5 plan in future (or until the



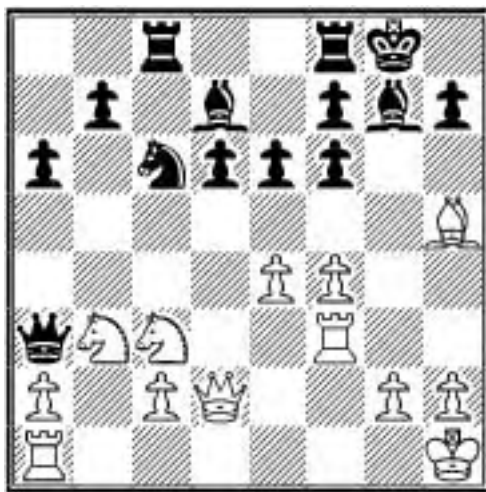
next big improvement turns up). So from the last diagram, my game continued **11 Be2 Nc6 12 0-0** (I rejected the sideline 12 f5?!, which seems premature.) **12...Bd7**. Here Black's alternatives were 12...h5 (which he was avoiding as a matter of policy) or 12...Bg7, which should not be good if White can get in f4-f5 before Black can play ...f6-f5.



My opponent was moving virtually instantly and he may well have had this position before, though I could find none of his games in the line. It is a well-known position that has arisen, for example, in two games Kasparov-Magerramov from 1982, and in the 4th game of the Short- Kasparov PCA world championship match, London 1993. White has an important choice, which I could no longer make entirely on the basis of rejecting alternatives, although this was still my main method. Kasparov's choice as White was 13 Rf3 and this was recommended in the Nunn book, but 13...Be7 seems a strong reply. For example, 14 Kh1 h5! (after all) 15 Rh3 h4 16 Qe1 Rc8 17 Rd1 b5 18 Nd2 Qa5 19 Nb3 Qb6! (19...Qa3 was possible of course.) White won in the 2001 email game T. Winkelmann- K.Fuhrwerk but only after Black rejected at least two more drawing lines. Boll-Sanakoev (the subject, for example, of a *New In Chess* Yearbook survey) had gone 13 Nd1 but in the game Claridge-Benedik, IECG World Championship 2000, the improved reply 13...Rd8! was shown to be good, although White managed to escape with an ingenious draw.

After 14 f5 Bg7 15 fxe6 fxe6 16 Bh5+ Ke7 17 Ne3 Ne5 18 Rad1 Black would have stood better with 18...Bc6 according to Martin Benedik, who is one of my coauthors on *The Total Marshall* CD.

I wasn't sure if Kracht knew that game but it had been published in *Chess Mail* and in the IECG database, so that meant 13 Nd1 was out. I also looked at 13 f5, 13 Nb1 and 13 Bh5 but eventually I decided to play **13 Kh1**, which cannot be bad and was the main move in Nunn's book. This was Black's last chance to select 13...h5 but he remained consistent and chose **13...Rc8**. I want to play Rf3 of course, to get my rook on the same rank as his queen, but first my bishop must be activated. So I now ruled out Black's other option by **14 Bh5** and Kracht continued with the plan to get castled, **14... Bg7 15 Rf3 0-0**.



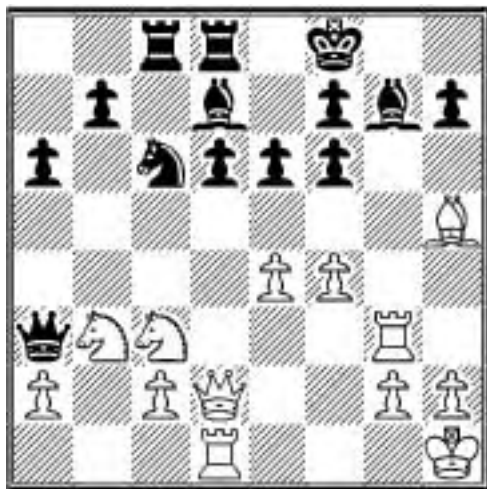
White has tried several moves here, but it is noteworthy that his bishop no longer defends his d-pawn. Now my last undeveloped piece comes into play with **16 Rd1**, as recommended by GM Ftacnik in *ChessBase Magazine* 61. In some lines, White will regain his gambit pawn (e.g. 16...Na5 17 Qxd6); it depends what Black does. After moving instantly until now, Kracht spent 4 days and selected 16...Rfd8 from a wide choice. Of course Black is not lost yet by any means. 16...f5, 16...b5 and even 16...Rc7 also come into consideration.

### 16...Rfd8 17 Rg3!

This is the only move so far played in practice. I looked at some others but it is probably best: after all it pins his Bishop and Rxc7 may happen in some tactical lines. The alternative would be to play 17 f5 but it was not clear. I preferred to optimise the placement of my pieces and see what he would do.

### 17...Kf8!?

This was his innovation, but I was expecting it. Black unpins the bishop. Fritz7 (at least on my 1 GHz computer) thinks this king move gives Black an edge and therefore considers it better than the moves so far tried. If 17...b5?! then 18 f5 Kf8 transposes to the game below. (In the past 18 Qe2 has been played.) The old move here was 17...Ne7 but I think this is not to be feared. After 18 f5 the reply 18...d5 has been recommended but I think 19 fxe6 fxe6 20 exd5 Nf5 21 Rf3 (M.Rocius-H. Buczynski, ICCF Email 2000) is at least a bit better for White. I half-expected Black to try 17...Qb4, which is tempting, but with 18 f5 Ne5 (18...Kf8 see the 18...Qb4 line below) 19 Nd4! the pressure is building. White has good piece coordination and threatens to crash through on f7.



Returning to his actual choice, 17...Kf8, what is White to do? It did not take long to reject the recapture of the pawn by 18 Qxd6+?!, because after 18...Qxd6 19 Rxd6 Be8 Black will get the initiative. White's queenside pawns are irretrievably damaged for an endgame; he must play for the attack. 18 Qe2! was suggested years ago with an exclamation mark and an "attack" assessment in notes to a game Loginov- Slekys. Perhaps this is what Black expected? Then Black has five moves that do not obviously lose and need to be examined in more detail. Unfortunately, I could not bust one of them, and 18...Ne7! 19 Qg4 (obviously right, but insufficient) 19...Ng6! was especially awkward.

On the other hand, all lines with 18 f5 seemed promising for White, if not so drastic. Black has a very wide choice of potentially playable moves against this pawn thrust (maybe as many as ten that only concede White an edge). This made it extremely hard to analyse, compared with the more forcing 18 Qe2 where Black has to find "only" moves or choose between at most two or three alternatives. But is it better to force an opponent to analyse accurately (and hope he doesn't) or give him a wide choice to let him go to hell in his own way? It partly depends on how big a plus is obtainable with 18 Qe2 against best defence and on how many of his plausible answers to 18 f5 actually conceal good lines for White. Once more I found myself making my choice primarily on negative considerations. I decided to mostly analyse 18 Qe2 and if it proved unsatisfactory, which it did, then play f4-f5.

### 18 f5! b5!?

Although chosen by him from a wide range of possibilities, this was the reply I thought most likely. I had been hoping, however, for 18...Qb4?, which is the same as 17...Qb4 18 f5 Kf8. I found that computers, even when given a long time, analysed the position after 18...Qb4 very badly.

a) 19 fxe6? Bxe6 20 Qf2 Ne7 21 Nd5 Bxd5 22 exd5 f5 (Various programs tried to tell me this was equal.) 23 Nd4 Bxd4 24 Rxd4 Rxc2 25 Qe3 f4! leads to a superior, probably winning endgame, for Black.

b) However, the line is close to losing for Black after the key move 19 a3! (which I had to find for myself) 19...Qxa3 20 Ra1 Qb4 21 Ra4 Qb6 22 Qxd6+ Kg8 23 Bxf7+ (23 Nd5!?) 23...Kxf7 24 Nc5 Qc7 (After 14...Kg8 25 Nxd7 White regains all sacrificed material with good chances.) 25 fxe6+ (If White exchanged queens first, Black would have a ...Kf8 option after fxe6+.) 25...Kg8 26 Qxc7 Rxc7 27 exd7 and there are other good lines for White, too. Apart from 18...Qb4 and the move played, Black can consider 18...Be8, 18...h6, 18...Ne7 or capture on f5 but I think that none of these are fully satisfactory. He is perhaps past the point of no return and needs to look earlier in the game for his improvement.

### **19 fxe6 Bxe6**

The only move. If 19...dxe6 20 Rf1 his king position is too weak.

### **20 Rf1**

White must have good compensation now.

### **20...Ne7**

This was one of the moves I had considered a bit but not in any detail. If instead:

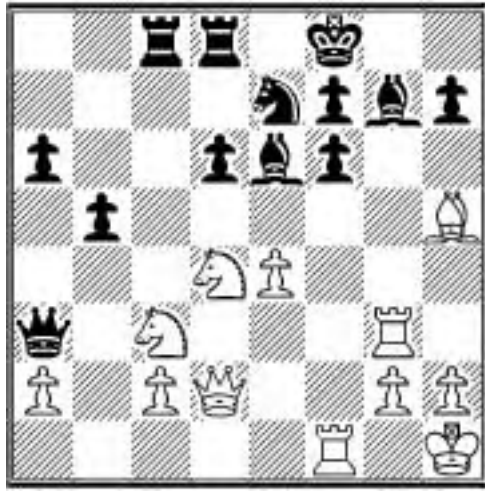
a) 20...Bc4 21 Qf4! Ne5 (22...Bxf1? 21 Qg4) 22 Rxc7! with a very strong attack.

b) 20...Qb4 21 Qf2 Ne5 2 Nxd5 Bxd5 23 exd5. Black's extra doubled isolated f-pawn is worthless and I prefer White.

c) 20...Qb2 21 Qf2!? (maybe not best) 21...Ne5 22 Nd4 and White's forces gravitate towards the black King.

### **21 Nd4**

The pressure is becoming too much. Black will have to give up his Queen for two rooks.



### 21...Bc4

After the game, my opponent sent me a comment that I thought rather strange: "Next time I won't play 21. ... Bc4 again (my blunder)." I expected him to play 21...Bc4 and I don't see that he has anything better. For example, 21...Qb2? 22 Nxe6+ fxe6 23 Rxf6+! Kg8 24 Rxc7+! is a massacre. He is right, however, that the rest of the game lacks theoretical interest and I give the remaining moves with minimal notes.

### 22 Nd5!

This discovers the attack from my g3-Rook against his Queen. It is not the only move to keep some advantage but it is the only one to increase it.

### 22...Qxg3

This is the only move to get full material value for the Queen.

### 23 hxg3 Nxd5!

This is Black's only playable line. Now White has the options to keep his Rook if he wants (Rd1 or Rf2) or take on d5 or threaten Black Rook.

### 24 Bg4! Ra8 25 Nc6! Bxf1

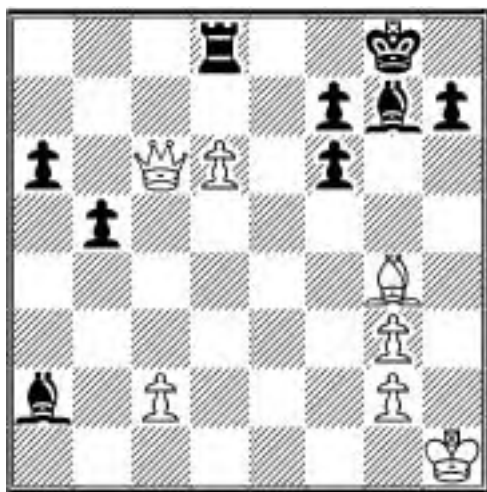
He cannot let my Rook live because it can do damage on the f-file. The simplification, however, helps my queen to infiltrate his position.

### 26 Nxd8 Rxd8 27 exd5 Kg8 28 Qe1

The idea is to go to e7 and take his d-pawn rather than to a5 and take the apawn which will fall later anyway. To win with queen against rook and minor piece, I will need a

passed pawn to tie down his pieces to defence, or else create new weaknesses to attack.

**28...Bc4 29 Qe7 Rf8 30 Qxd6 Bxa2 31 Qc6 Rd8 32 d6**



**32...f5!?**

Rather than die slowly, Black tries a final swindle. He could have played 32...Bf8 when 33 d7 brings about a bind that could also have arisen by other move orders. At move 25, I spent quite a lot of time examining the consequences of this because that was the last point where it could really be avoided. The white King cannot get over to the queenside but otherwise he can more or less do what he wants. White will gradually improve his position while Black can basically do nothing. The white B can go to f5, the front g-pawn goes to g4 and the white K marches up the h-file. When my K gets to h5, then Qe3 (attacking e7 and h6) is a killer.

**33 Bxf5 Be6**

Here is the trap. Black hopes for 34 Qb6 when he takes my bishop and plays with two bishops against queen, which actually gives him far more drawing chances in this case than rook and bishop would. For example, 34...Rxd6! 35 Bxh7+ Kxh7 36 Qxd6 Bf5 37 Qxa6 Bxc2 38 Qb5 Bg6. Although Queen versus Two Bishops (with no pawns) is normally a win, I cannot break down his blockade to achieve that? His pawn defends the g6-B and my K cannot get across the bishop barrier. Instead, by capturing his bishop, I have a much quicker win than in the 32...Bf8 line.

**34 Bxe6! 1-0**

Black resigned. After 34...fxe6 35 Qxa6 he can eliminate my d-pawn but the passed c-pawn is hard to blockade because his remaining pawns are vulnerable. He cannot

organise any serious resistance with his light squares so weak. For example, 35...Bf8 36 Qxb5 Rxd6 37 c4 h6 38 Qe8 Kg7 39 Kh2 (To play c5 without him having a check) 39... Rb6 40 Qd7+ Ke8 41 Qc8 e5 42 c5 Rg6 43 c6.

This game does not refute the Poisoned Pawn, of course. Much as I would like to believe I have found the ultimate refutation of Bobby Fischer's favourite Sicilian variation, I fear it is more likely that I have only done to death a minor sub- sub-variation, and that Black will soon come bouncing back to prove the b-pawn is edible after all. At least the Harding-Kracht game does put the ball back into Black's court.

The onus is on the second player, once more, to prove that his backward development, insecure king and wayward queen are not more serious than the pawn he has gobbled. When Short had White, he attacked the world champion's Najdorf Sicilian ferociously but somehow Garry hung on and did not lose a game until the match victory was virtually assured. Then suddenly, after achieving equality, Kasparov did at last make a fatal error and Short scored a consolation victory in the 16th game.

# The Najdorf Sicilian Poisoned Pawn

## by Gideon Mishanevsky

I've been quite fascinated and intrigued by the Sicilian Najdorf poisoned Pawn variation for some time. This variation was one of Fischer's favorite systems of defense. It is one of the most played, tense and problematic lines of the Sicilian.

In this line, Black, by playing Qb6, assumes immediate control of the a7-g1 diagonal and puts pressure on White's vulnerable b2 pawn. White sacrifices the b2 pawn in order to exploit Black's hindered development. Black, on the other hand, tries to benefit from his material plus.

John Nunn, the famous British Grandmaster, wrote in "The Complete Najdorf", along with a multitude of high level games and high quality analysis, that White has nothing more than a draw. I would like, hereby, to examine the lines advocated by Nunn and then present my own contradicting analysis.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6**



We are now in the critical starting position

**8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5**

10.e5. This was the formerly employed favorite move

**10...Nc6 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5 dxe5 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Ne4**





This avoids exiled queen, re-entering game via d6 square.

**15... Qxa2**

Probably the best.

**16.Rd1 Be7 17.Be2**

With threats along the h5-e8 diagonal. 17.Nd6+ Leads to a Black win, which is why Nunn neglects to mention this line as a viable option for White.



17...Bxd6 18.Qxd6 Qa5+ 19.Rd2 Ra7 20.Qxc6+ Bd7?! 21.Qd6 Kf7 22.Be2 Bb5 (22... h5?! 23.O-O =+ White has some compensation for the material, but I would still say that Black is winning.) 23.O-O Bxe2 24.Rxe2 Rd8 25.Qxe5 Qxe5 26.Rxe5 Rd2 Black is in a winning Rooks and King versus Rooks and King endgame.

17...Kf8?! This is a much weaker continuation for Black, leading to uncertain waters. Why even venture here when Bxd6 is almost certainly winning?



18.Bc4 Qb2 19.Qh6+ Kg8. At this point White should play 20.Nxc8 ( 20.Rd3? Looks strong, but loses for Black with the surprising 2...Bxd6!) 20... Qc3+ 21.Rd2 Qxc4 22.Nxe7 + Kf7 23.Rf1 Qe4+ 24.Kd1 Qg4+ 25.Rf3 +- And Black can't take the knight due to mate and White enjoys a lasting material plus.

**17...O-O 18.O-O f5 19.Qh6 Qxc2 20.Rf3! f4!**



How disappointing, White's attacking resources are almost depleted and come to an end. He might strive for a draw, as in the following:

**21.Rh3 Rf7 22.Rhd3 Qxe2 23.Rd8+ Rf8 24.Nf6+**



White's best chance for the perpetual is to eliminate some Black defenders and check with the Queen like this: 24. Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Qg5+ Kf7 26.Qf6+ Kg8 27.Qg5+ (Draw)

**24...Kf7 25.Nh5 Bxd8 26.Qxh7+ Ke8 27.Qg6+**



In this position, this is White's only assured path to the draw here! As 27.Ng7+ leads to 27...Ke7 28.Nf5+ where Black actually wins here by the following surprising line: 28...Kf6



( 28...Ke8?? This is a huge blunder that finishes the game in checkmate! by 29.Nd6# )  
29.Qg7+ Kxf5 30.Qxf8+ Bf6 -+ Black's King is safe and he has overwhelming material  
advantage!

**27...Rf7 28.Qg8+ Rf8 29.Qg6+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Ke8** (Draw by perpetual)

30...Rf7 This loses, hence Black is forced to accept the draw that results from Ke8 31.  
Qg5+ Rf6 32.Qxf6+ Ke8 33.Rxd8#

## Game 121

**M.Tal-A.Tolush**

USSR Championship,

Leningrad 1956,

17th round

*Sicilian Defence B97*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2**

The so-called Poisoned Pawn Variation, one of the sharpest in the Sicilian Defence, had only just been conceived at that time, and each new duel gave a powerful impulse to the development of opening theory. It goes without saying that Tal rushed into the unknown with unbridled enthusiasm!

**9 Rb1 Qa3 10 e5?!**

An unprepared attack. Later on, recognising the drawbacks to the early e4-e5, White began playing 10 f5 or 10 Be2.

**10...dxe5 11 fxe5 Nfd7**



**12 Ne4?!**

This ambitious move was later condemned, while 12 Bc4 (Keres-Tolush, 24th USSR Championship, Moscow 1957) was successfully combated in the 1960s by Fischer – the most ardent supporter of the Najdorf.

**12...Qxa2?**

White's idea can be refuted by 12...h6! 13 Bh4 (if 13 Bb5!? both 13...axb5 14 Nxb5 hxg5 15 Nxa3 Rxa3 and 13...hxg5 14 Rb3 axb5! 15 Rxa3 Bxa3 are suitable) 13...Qxa2 14 Rb3 Qa1+ 15 Kf2 Qa4 and the vulnerability of the bishop at h4 makes all the typical sacrifices ineffective. For example: 16 Bb5 axb5 17 Nxb5 Bc5 + 18 Nxc5 Qxh4+ 19 g3 Qd8 20 Qd6 Nxc5! 21 Nc7+ Qxc7 22 Qxc7 Nba6 with advantage to Black (Korchnoi-Tolush, 25th USSR Championship, Riga 1958).

**13 Rb3 Qa1+ 14 Kf2 Qa4**



**15 Bb5?!**

Intuitively sensing that the position demands a sacrifice, Tal immediately sacrifices – at just the right moment, but... the wrong piece and on the wrong square! Soon afterwards they found 15 Nxe6!! fxe6 16 Nd6+ Bxd6 17 Qxd6 Rf8+ 18 Kg3 with a very strong attack. Here are a few variations: 18...Nf6 (18...Rf7? 19 Qxe6+ Kf8 20 Bc4 is totally bad) 19 exf6 gxf6 20 Be2 fxf6 (after 20...Nd7 21 Qxe6+ Kd8 22 Bf4 Qc6 23 Qxc6 bxc6 24 Rd1 Black, despite his extra pawn, has an unenviable endgame, but now his king becomes the target of a pursuit by the heavy pieces) 21 Bh5+ Rf7 22 Bxf7+ Kxf7 23 Rf1+ Kg6 24 Rb4! Qxc2 25 h4! Qc3 + 26 Kh2 h5 (26...Nc6 27 Qf8! Qe5+ 28 Kh1 is also hopeless) 27 Rf3 Qg7 28 hxg5 and wins.

**15...axb5 16 Nxb5** ('hinting' at Nc7 mate) **16...f6 17 exf6**

Also giving up the knight at e4. The standard evaluation of the position has to give way to intuition and calculation. There is no mate and it would seem that, based on the strict canons of higher chess truth, White must sooner or later lose. But what is the practical significance of this 'higher chess truth', if the variations confirming it are found only months or even years later?!



## 17...gxf6?

This natural capture was deemed a mistake, but also 17...Nxf6 'retaining good resources' (Tal) was little better: 18 Nxf6+ gxf6 19 Nc7+ (or 19 Bxf6 Bc5+ 20 Ke1 Qe4+ 21 Kd1 e5 22 Nc7+) 19...Kf7 20 Bxf6! (completely exposing the black king, whereas 20 Nxa8? leaves White material down and without an attack: 20...Bc5+ 21 Be3 Bxe3+ 22 Qxe3 Qxa8 23 Qc5 Nd7 24 Qh5+ Ke7) 20...Bc5+ 21 Ke1 Qe4+ 22 Kd1 e5 23 Nxa8. It is here that the real adventures begin:

1) 23...Kxf6? 24 Qh6+! (but not 24 Rf1+? Kg6 25 Rg3+ Bg4+ and Black wins: 26 Kc1 Bb4! 27 Qd3 Qxd3 28 cxd3 Kh5 or 26 Rff3 Nc6 27 h3 h5 28 hxg4 h4! 29 Rf5 Be7 30 Rh5 Rd8 31 Rh6+ Kg7 32 Rd3 Qxg4+ 33 Ke1 Bg5 etc.) 24...Qg6 (or 24...Kf7 25 Rf1+ Ke8 26 Rd3!, shutting the cage: 26...Qg4+ 27 Rff3; 26...Bg4+ 27 Kc1 Nd7 28 Qg7 Rf8 29 Rxf8+ Bxf8 30 Nc7+ Kd8 31 Ne6+! Kc8? 32 Qxf8+ Nxf8 33 Rd8 mate! or 31...Bxe6 32 Qxf8+ Kc7 33 Qd6+ etc.) 25 Rf1+ Bf5 (25...Ke6 26 Qh4! with a mass of threats, or 25...Ke7 26 Qh4+ Ke8 27 Nc7+ Kd7 28 Rf6! Qg8 29 Ne6 Qxe6 30 Rxe6 Kxe6 31 Qc4+ Kd6 32 Rd3+ Kc6 33 Qd5+ Kb6 34 Rb3+ and wins) 26 Qh4+ Ke6 27 Rg3 Bxc2+ 28 Kd2 and both kings are in danger, but Black's is in more trouble;

2) 23...Bg4+! (this preliminary check makes a great difference!) 24 Kc1 Kxf6 25 Qh6+ Qg6 26 Rf1+ Ke6 27 Qd2 Rc8 (the insipid 27...Qg7? leads to disaster: 28 Nb6 Bd4 29 c3 Bxb6 30 Rxb6+ Nc6 31 c4! Rb8 32 c5 Qe7 33 Qa2+ Kd7 34 Rf7) 28 Nb6 Bxb6 29 Rxb6+ Rc6 30 Rxb7 Rd6 31 Qc3 Nd7 and the resulting position needs to be played, not evaluated...

In my view, it was best to eliminate the centralised knight immediately, in order to then combine defence and counterattack: 17...Qxe4! 18 fxf7 Bc5+ 19 Kg3.



### ***Analysis diagram***

It is not hard to guess why Tolush, who was also a brilliant master of attack, avoided this continuation: the black king faces a very dangerous journey and it appears that it will be unable to withstand the onslaught of the splendidly mobilised white army. Indeed, that was the opinion of Tal and other commentators after the game. However, the gloomy evaluation, given by 'man', proves incorrect when the 'machine' is switched on. In the end, Black's two(!) extra pieces and the open position of the white king outweigh White's strong, but temporary threats:

1) 19...Qe5+ 20 Kh3 Qxg7 21 Nc7+ Kf7 22 Rf1+ Kg8 23 Bh6 (here Tal cuts short the variation with the words 'and it is hard for Black to defend') 23...Qg6 24 Rg3 Ra3 25 c3 Nc6 (for the moment this is all forced) 26 Nd5!? (probably the best chance: the knight comes into play, aiming at e7, f6 or f4).

In this slightly crazy position Black is ready to give up queen for rook at g6, retaining a decisive material advantage; moreover, the imprisoned rook at h8 will suddenly become very active. Therefore White aims to keep the enemy king 'encaged' for as long as possible, by creating various mating threats.





### ***Analysis diagram***

Black has to perform a minor miracle – normal moves no longer have any point:

?) 26...e5? (greetings to the white king from the bishop at c8) 27 Rxc3 (now this is good: the critical e5-square is inaccessible to the black knights) 27...hxg6 28 Qg5 Nf6+ 29 g4 Bxc3+ 30 Kh4 Bf5 31 Rxf5 Ra4+ 32 Kh3 Rxh6+ 33 Qxh6 gxf5 34 Qg6+ Kf8 35 Qxf6+ Ke8 36 Qxf5 and White, after overcoming certain technical difficulties, should win;

b) 26...Nce5? (it would appear that everything is defended...) 27 Qd4!! The black king, driven into the corner and surrounded by its entire retinue, faces inevitable reprisal: 27...Rxc3 (a clever trick, but it fails to save Black) 28 Ne7+! Bxe7 29 Qxc3 Bf6 30 Qxc8+ Kf7 31 Rxc3 Rxc8 32 Rg7+ Kf8 (32...Ke8 33 Rg8+) 33 Rxd7+ Ke8 34 Rxh7, or 27...Bd6 (a desperate attempt to retain control of the e7- and f8-squares) 28 Nf6+! Nxf6 29 Rxf6 Qxg3+ 30 hxg3 Ra1 31 Kh2 and the rook at h8 is immured for ever;

c) 26...Ra4!! Here is the miracle – an unobtrusive, quiet move of enormous destructive power! By taking control of the fourth rank, Black restores the coordination of his pieces and creates dangerous threats to the white king, e.g. 27 Rg5 Re4! 28 Rxc3 (now is the time – after 28 Qd3 the magical rook rescues Black: 28...Rg4!! 29 Rxc3 Qxc3+ 30 Kxc3 Nde5+) 28...hxg6 29 Qg5 Nce5 30 Qd8+ Kh7 31 Nf6+ Nxf6 32 Qxf6 Rg8 33 Bf4 Rf8 and White's attack peters out. Black is also winning after 27 Rxc3 hxg6 28 Qg5 Nde5 29 Nf6+ Kf7 30 Nd7+ Ke8 31 Nxc5 (for an instant White is even material ahead) 31...Rc4! (again a quiet rook move changes everything!) 32 Nd3 Nf7 (32...Rxc3 33 Rf3 is not so clear). Finally, after 27 Nf4 there is the murderous reply 27...Nb6!, opening the c8-h3 diagonal for the bishop, and after 28 Rxc3 (or 28 Nxc3 e5+ 29 Rg4 hxg6) 28...hxg6 29 Nxc3 e5+ 30 g4 Rxc3 31 Nxc3 both the crude 31...Rd4+ and the more aesthetic 31...Be7 are decisive, according to taste.

However, the variations with 19...Qe5+ that we have examined are too complicated for both 'man' and 'machine' to be able to draw final conclusions. I would not begin to assert that White has used all of his attacking potential. However, Black has another possibility of casting doubts on his opponent's ultra-aggressive play.

2) 19...Rg8!



This looks suicidal in view of 20 Re1 with a catastrophe on e6, but after 20...Nf6!! the time has come to sympathise with the king on g3: 21 Bxf6 (21 Rxe4 Nxe4+) 21...Rgx7+! 22 Bxg7 Qg6+ 23 Kf3 Qxg7 24 Qf4 Na6 25 Nd6+ Bxd6 26 Qxd6 Qf8+ and White, forgetting about his wonderful attack, has to try and save a highly unpleasant endgame. If instead 20 Nc7+, then 20...Kf7 21 Rf3+ Kxg7 22 Re1 Bd6+! 23 Kh3 (it is fatal to play 23 Qxd6 Qxe1+ 24 Kh3 Kh8 25 Qe7, and here not 25...Qe5? 26 Rf7 Ra3+ 27 g3 Rg7 28 Rf8+ Rg8 29 Rf7 with a draw, but 25... h6! 26 Rf7 Ra3+ 27 Qxa3 hxg5, mating) 23...Qxf3+ (the simplest) 24 gxf3 Bxc7 25 Qc3+ Kf7 26 Qxc7 Rxg5 27 Qxc8 Rg8 28 Qxb7 Ra5 29 Re4 Rh5+ 30 Rh4 Rgg5 31 Rxh5 Rxh5+ 32 Kg3 Rc5 and the endgame is no less unpleasant for White than the previous one.

Having convinced ourselves that the sacrifice 15 Bb5?! was incorrect, let us finally return to the game and see why such a seemingly quite natural move as 17... gxf6? did not work out for Black.



### 18 Re1!!

A brilliant flash of genius, after which White is now out of the danger zone (if, of course, one can say such a thing about this game!): his king is comparatively safe and all his pieces are in play. The combination of these factors is the best insurance policy in such positions.

### 18...Ra6!

The only sensible defence. Black loses quickly after 18...fxg5? 19 Nc7+ Kf7 20 Rf3 + Nf6 (20...Kg8 21 Qxg5+ Bg7 22 Nxe6) 21 Rxf6+ Kg8 22 Rxf8+ Kxf8 23 Qd8+ etc.

### 19 Bxf6 Nxf6 20 Nxf6+ Kf7 21 Rf3!



#8

Terrifying, wouldn't you agree? Impending over the black king is the deadly threat of a discovered check.

### 21...Qh4+

Of course, not 21...Qxb5? 22 Nd5+ Ke8 (22...Kg6 23 Rf6+ and mate) 23 Nc7+, winning the queen. But the tempting 21...Bc5+? would also have been a serious mistake: 22 Kg3 (here the king feels quite comfortable and it can permit its army to continue the offensive) 22...h6 (preventing 23 Qg5) 23 Re5! (White calmly intensifies the pressure, demonstrating the power of his position) 23...Rc6 (or 23...Qxb5 24 Nd5+ with the same tragic outcome) 24 Ng4+! (an unexpected and very strong leap: when attacking, never forget to cover your own king!) 24...Ke8 (but not 24...Kg7? 25 Rg5+! hxc5 26 Qxc5+) 25 Rxc5! Rxc5 26 Nd6+ Kd7 27 Nf7+ Rd5 28 Nf6+ Kc6 29 Rc3+! Kb5 30 Nxd5 Rg8+ 31 Kf2 exd5 (or 31...Qh4+ 32 Kg1 exd5 33 Qxd5+, mating: 33...Ka6 34 Ra3+ Kb6 35 Qa5+ Kc6 36 Rc3+ Kd7 37 Rc7+ etc.) 32 Qxd5+ Ka6 33 Qd6+ b6 34 Ra3 with an easy win.

## 22 Kf1 e5!

By activating his rook at a6 and bishop at c8, Black sharply increases his defensive potential. The impulsive 22...Qc4+? would have merely driven the white king into its usual residence (the black monarch can only dream of this!): 23 Kg1 Qc5+ 24 Kh1 Ke7 25 Rc3 Qxb5 26 Nd5+ Qxd5 27 Qxd5 with material equality and a powerful attack.

## 23 Qd5+



## 23...Be6

Again the only defence. After 23...Kg6? 24 Ne8!! the orchestra of rooks and knights, conducted by the queen, gives a highly artistic performance:

1) 24...Bg4 25 Nbd6! Nd7 (the knight belatedly remembers its duties to the crown!) 26 Qe4+ Kh5 27 h3!! (after the bishop moves from g4, the black king will have nowhere to hide) 27...Ra4 (it is no better to play 27...Bxf3 28 Qxf3+ Kh6 29 Nf5+ or 27...Bxd6 28 hxc4+ Qxc4 29 Rf5+ Kh4 30 g3+! Kxc3 31 Re3+ Kh4 32

Qh1+) 28 hxg4+ Qxg4 29 Nf6+! Nxf6 30 Qxe5+ Qg5 31 Rf5 Bh6 32 Nf7! and the curtain comes down;

2) 24...Kh6 25 Nbd6 (the same manoeuvre, cleaving the opposing camp in two) 25...Bxd6 26 Nxd6 Qxh2 (26...e4 27 Qd4! Rg8 28 Rxe4 is even worse) 27 Rf6+ Kg5 28 Ne4+ Kh4 29 Rxa6 and Black has a painful choice between mate after 29...Nxa6 30 g3+ Kg4 (30...Kh3 31 Nf2+ Kxg3 32 Qxe5+) 31 Qd1+ Kf5 32 Qf3+ Ke6 33 Qf6+ Kd5 34 Qd6+ Kc4 35 Qd3+ Kb4 36 Rb1+ and a slow, agonising death in a hopeless endgame via 29...Rf8+ 30 Rf6 Rxf6+ 31 Nxf6 Qf4+ 32 Qf3 etc.

## 24 Nd7+

Usually such checks kill instantly, but here by some miracle Black is still alive.



## 24...Kg6?

The wrong way! After 24...Ke7 the wretched king, supported by its subjects, could have hoped to survive the storm. It would appear that White has nothing better than 25 Qc5+ Ke8 26 Rxf8+ (26 Qc8+ Ke7) 26...Rxf8+ 27 Qxf8+ Kxd7 28 Rd1+ Kc6 29 Qd6+ Kxb5 30 Rb1+ Ka4 31 Ra1+ Kb5 32 Rb1+ with perpetual check.

## 25 Ne5+ Kg7

It was worth trying to confuse matters with 25...Kh5, although I have no doubt that Tal would have found 26 Qd1!! (with the threat of a discovered check; the 'queen plus rook' battery carries a nuclear charge!) 26...Bc4+ 27 Kg1 Bc5+ 28 Kh1 Kh6 (the checks are over, and the king begins to flee, but cannot find a haven) 29 Qc1+ Kg7 30 Rf4 Ra1 31 Qxa1 Qxf4 32 Ng4+ (32 Nxc4+ is also good enough) 32...Kg8 33 Nf6+ Kf7 34 Nh5 Qg5 35 Qxh8 Bxb5 36 Qxh7+ Kf8 37 Qxb7 and together with Black's last pawns, his last hopes also disappear.

**26 Rg3+ Qxg3**

This is sadly necessary, as otherwise there is a quick mate: 26...Kh6 27 Nf7+ Bxf7 28 Qd2+ Kh5 29 Re5+.

**27 Qxb7+ Nd7 28 hxg3 Rb6 29 Qc7 Bc5** (29...Rxb5 30 Nxd7 Rf5+ 31 Kg1 also fails to save Black) **30 Nxd7 Bc4+** (a spite check) **31 Re2**

**1-0**

Black lost on time. A gripping encounter with a mass of highly interesting variations.

# SICILIAN def. NAJDORF var.

Bokar - Freeman

1:0, 2/27/2003.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Qb6 8. Qd2 Qxb2 9. Nb3 Qa3 10. Bxf6 gf 11. Be2 h5 12. O-O Nc6 = 13. Nb1

[13. Kh1 Bd7 14. Nb1 Qb4 15. Qe3 d5 16. ed Ne7 17. c4 Nf5 18. Qd3 h4 19. Bg4 Nd6 20. N1d2 f5 21. a3 Qb6 22. c5 Qb5 23. Qc3 fg 24. a4 h3 25. ab hg 26. Kxg2 Rh3 27. Qf6 Nf5 28. c6 Bc8 29. de fe 30. Rfe1 Be7 31. Rxe6 1-0, Spassky Boris V 2660 - Fischer Robert J 2785 , Reykjavik 1972 Ch World (match);

**13. Qe3 Bd7 14. Rfd1 Nb4 +0.06 CAP]**



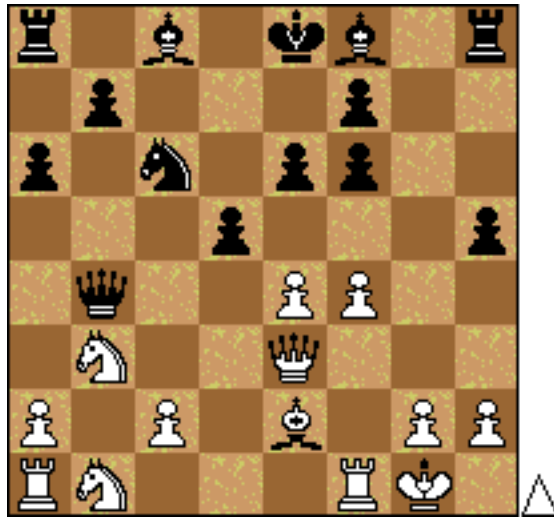
**13... Qb4**

[13... Qa4 14. c4 (14. Nc3 -1.03 CAP) 14... Qb4 15. Qe3 Bg7 16. a3 Qa4 17. Qg3 Kf8 18. Nc3 Qxb3 19. Rfb1 Qc2 20. Ra2 h4 21. Qe1 Qxa2 22. Nxa2 f5 23. ef ef 24. Bf3 Bd4 25. Kh1 Nd8 26. Nc3 Bd7 27. Nd5 Ne6 28. Qb4 Bc6 29. Qxd6 Kg7 30. Nc7 Nxc7 31. Qxd4 Kg6 32. Rg1 Rad8 33. Qe5 ...1-0, Tal Mikhail - Zilberstein Valery I 2445 , URS 1973]

**14. Qe3 d5**

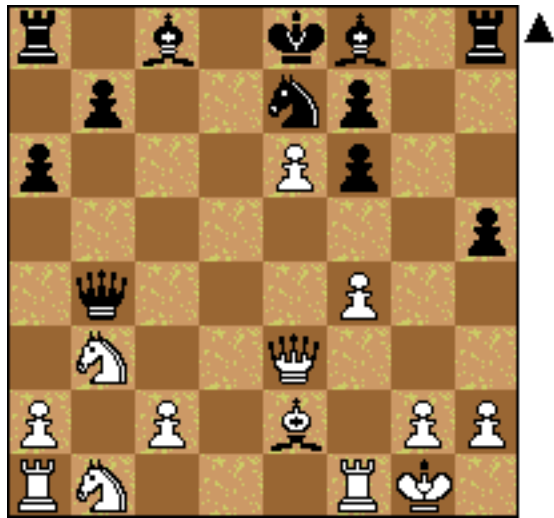
[14... f5 15. ef d5 16. fe fe 17. c3 Qe7 18. N1d2 Bd7 19. Nf3 O-O-O 20. Rab1 Qa3 21. Nfd4 Re8 22. Nxc6 Bxc6 23. Nd4 Bc5 24. Kh1 Bxd4 25. Qxd4 Qxa2 1/2-1/2, Robatsch Karl 2460 - Korchnoi Viktor 2640 , Palma de Majorca 1972 It;

**14... Qa4 -0.56 CAP]**



15. ed Ne7 16. de +0.00 CAP

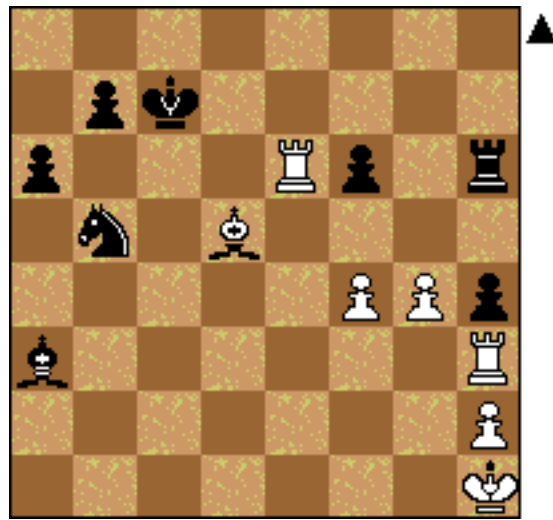
[16. Nc3 Nf5 17. Qd3 Qb6 18. Rf2 Qe3 19. Ne4 Qxd3 20. Bxd3 Be7 21. Re1 Kf8 22. de Bxe6 23. Nec5 Nd4 24. Nxe6 Nxe6 25. Bf5 Nc7 26. Rd1 Nb5 27. Rd7 Rd8 28. c4 Nd6 29. Rxd8 Bxd8 30. Bd3 b6 31. Rd2 Bc7 32. Kf2 Kg7 33. Kf3 Re8 34. Re2 Rd8 35. Rd2 Nb7 ...1-0, Mecking Henrique 2610 - Tal Mikhail, Las Palmas 1975 It]



16... fe 17. N1d2 Bd7 18. Qf2 Rc8 19. a3 Qa4 20. Nc5 Qc6 21. Nxd7 Kxd7 22. Rad1 Nf5 23. Nb3 Ke8 24. Rfe1 Bxa3 25. Bf3 Qxc2 26. Qxc2 Rxc2 27. Be4 Rc5 28. Nxc5 Bxc5 29. Kh1 Nd6 30. Bd5 Kd7 31. Rxe6 Rh6 32. Rde1 h4 33. Re7 Kc8 34. Rc1 Kd8 35. Re6 Ba3 36. Rc3 Nb5 37. Rh3 Kc7 38. g4



[1:0]



## Opening: B97 - Sicilian Defense Poisoned Pawn Variation

The Poisoned Pawn variation of the Sicilian Defense is considered today like very juiceable by the black side, and in many occasions the white look for to elude it, since the blacks usually equal. In the following game the white introduced the newness just in the play 28.Be4, but without success, although they had some chances practical in the end of laborers that took place, that the blacks saved by means of a pretty blow of artistic end.

**Morgado, J - It takes, M [ B97 ]**  
**EMAIL IECG III WORLD CH, 1999**  
*[ Juan S. Morgado ]*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Nc6 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Be2 Be7 14.O-O O-O 15.Rb3 Qc5+ 16.Be3 Qe5 17.Bf4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Qxe4 19.Bxd6 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Bf6 21. Ba3 c5 22.Bf3**

[ If 22.Bxc5 Bb7 ]

**22... Qc4+ 23.Qd3**

[ Or 23.Qe2 Qxe2+ 24.Kxe2 Ra7 25.Rb8 (25.Kd3? ... Kc4÷ Grasis, and ) 25... Rc7 26. Bb7 Rxb7 27.Rxc8+ Kf7 28.Rxc5 Be7 (28... Bb2 29.Ra5 Rc7 30.Rc5 Rb7 31.Ra5 Rc7 ½ - ½ Sax-Georgiev, K/Wijk aan Zee 1989 ) 29.Ra5 Bxa3 30.Rxa3 Rb6 = Grasis, Y-Karklins/USSR 1988/Inf 45 (30) ]

**23... Qxd3+ 24.cxd3 Ra7 25.Bxc5 Rc7 26.d4 Kf7**

[ Interesting is 26... Be7? ]

**27.Ke2 Bd7**

[ But not 27... e5? 28.Bd6 Rc2+ 29.Kd1 Bf5 30.Bd5+ Ke8 (30... Kg6 31.g4+ -) 31.dxe5 ± Bg5 32.Rb8+ Kd7 33.Rb7+ Kc8 34.Rxg7 Bh6 35.Bb7+ Kd8 36.Rg8+ Kd7 37.Bxa6 Kc6 38.a3 (38.a4) 38... Kb6 39.Bf1 Rc1+ 40.Ke2 Rc2+ 41.Kf3 Rc3+ 42.Kf2 Be3+ (42... Rc2+ 43.Kg3 Rc3+ 44.Kh4±; 42... Bf4 43.Rf8 Rc2+ 44.Be2 Bd3 45.Rxf4 Rxe2+ 46.Kf3 ±) 43.Ke2 Be6 44.Rb8+ Kc6 45.Rb1 Bg4+ (45... Bc4+ 46.Ke1±) 46.Ke1 Rc2 47.Bd3 1-0 Morgado, J-Sutkus, V/cr Lithuania 100 Years 1992 ]

**28.Be4!?N**

The idea is to play Rb7 to force the change of R, and soon to press the Pa, taking advantage of that the white K is relatively near him. [ the alternative era 28.Rb6

**A)** 28... Bb5+ 29.Ke3

**A1)** 29... Bg5+;

**A2)** 29... Rd7 30.Be4 (30.Bc6) 30... Bd8 =;

**A3)** 29... e5 30.Bd5+ Ke8 (30... Kg6? 31.dxe5±) 31.Be4+ =;

**B)** 28... Be7! 29.Rb7 Rxb7 30.Bxb7 Bb5+ 31.Ke3 Bc4 32.a4! (32.a3! Hertel ; 32.a3! Hertel ; 32.a3! ± Hertel ) 32... Bd8 33.Ke4 Bb3 34.Bc6 Kf6 1/2: 1/2 Morgado 2510 - Hertel 2560, cr Bertl von Massow-mem 1988/90 ]

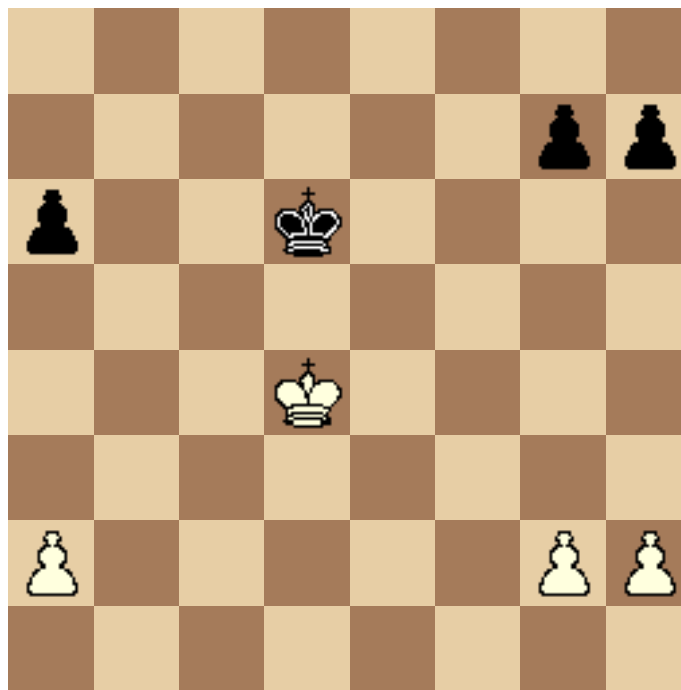
**28... Bc6 29.Bxc6 Rxc6 30.Kd3 e5 31.Rb6 Rxb6 32.Bxb6 Ke6 33.Ke4 exd4**

[ Daba chances to 33 white... g6 34.d5+ Kd6 35.Ba7 with initiative ]

**34.Bxd4 Bxd4**

[ Not 34... Be7? 35.Bxg7± ]

**35.Kxd4 Kd6**



This it is a very interesting end of laborers. It seems that the Blacks make tables facilmente, but...

**36.g4!**

[ Bad era 36.h4? h5 37.Ke4? Kc5 (37... Ke6 38.g3 g6 39.a3) 38.Kf5 Kb4 39.Kg5 Ka3 40. Kxh5 Kxa2 41.Kg6 a5 42.h5 a4 43.g4 a3 44.g5 Kb1-+; At tables h6 was arrived with 36.

Kc4 37.Kb4 Kc6 38.Ka5 Kb7 39.g4 g5 40.Kb4 Kb6 41.a4 Kc6 42.h3 Kb6 =; Also to tables 37.Kc4 Kb6 lead 36.a3 Kc6 38.Kb4 Kc6 39.a4 Kb6 40.a5+ Kc6 41.Kc4 Kd6 = ]

### 36... h6

[ If 36... g6? 37.g5 Ke6 38.Kc5 Kf5 39.Kb6 Kxg5 40.Kxa6 Kh4 41.a4+ -; Another order of 36 plays was... g5 37.Ke4 Ke6 38.h3 h6 39.a3

**A)** 39... Kd6? 40.Kf5 Kc5 41.Kg6 Kc4 42.Kxh6 Kb3 43.Kxg5 Kxa3 44.h4+ -;

**B)** 39... a5? 40.a4 Kd6

**B1)** 41.Kf5 Kc5 42.Kg6 Kb4 43.Kxh6 Kxa4 44.Kxg5 Kb3 (44... Kb3 45.h4 a4 46.h5 a3 47.h6 a2 48.h7 a1D) ;

**B2)** 41.Kd4 41... Kc6 42.Kc4 Kb6 43.Kd5+ -;

**C)** 39... h5! 40.gxh5 Kf6 41.a4 a5 42.Kf3 Kg7 43.Kg4 Kh6 = is similar to the game; Did not serve 36... Kc6 either? 37.Ke5 Kb5 38.Ke6 Ka4 39.Kf7 Ka3 40.Kxg7 Kxa2 41.Kxh7 a5 42.g5 a4 43.g6 a3 44.g7 Kb1 45.g8Q+ - ]

### 37.h3!

The play that creates more difficulties to the blacks. [ If 37.h4

**A)** 37... g5? 38.h5 (38.hxg5? hxg5 39.a3 Ke6 40.Kc5 Ke5 41.Kb6 Kf4 42.Kxa6 Kxg4 43.a4 Kf3 44.Kb5 g4 45.a5 g3 46.a6 g2 47.a7 g1Q 48.a8Q+ =)

**A1)** 38... Ke6 39.Ke4 (39.Kc5? Ke5 40.Kb6 Kf4 41.Kxa6 Kxg4 42.Kb5 Kh3 43.a4 g4 44.a5 g3 45.a6 g2 46.a7 g1Q 47.a8Q) 39... Kf6 40.Kd5+ -;

**A2)** 38... Kc6 39.Ke5 Kb5 40.Kf6 Ka4 41.Kg7 Ka3 42.Kxh6 Kxa2 43.Kg6+ -;

**B)** 37... g6? 38.h5 gxh5 39.gxh5 Ke6 (39... Kc6 40.Ke5 Kb5 41.Kf6 Ka4 42.Kg6 Ka3 43.Kxh6 Kxa2 44.Kg6 a5 45.h6 a4 46.h7 a3 47.h8Q+ -) 40.Kc5 Kf5 41.Kb6 Kg5 42.Kxa6 Kxh5 43.a4 Kg4 44.a5 h5 45.Kb6 h4 46.a6 h3 47.a7 h2 48.a8Q+ -;

**C)** 37... Ke6! 38.Ke4 g6 (38... Kf6 39.a4 a5 40.Kd5+ -) 39.a3 Kd6 40.a4 a5 41.Kd4 Kc6 42.Ke5 Kc5 43.Kf6 Kb4 44.Kxg6 Kxa4 45.Kxh6 Kb4 46.g5 a4 47.g6 a3 48.g7 a2 49.g8Q a1Q+ = ]

### 37... g5!

[ But not 37... g6 38.h4 Ke6 (38... h5 39.gxh5 gxh5 40.a3 a5 41.a4 Kc6 42.Kc4 Kb6 43.Kd5 Kb7 44.Kc5 Ka6 45.Kc6 Ka7 46.Kb5 Kb7 47.Kxa5 Ka7 48.Kb5 Kb7 49.Kc5 Ka6 50.Kd5 Ka5 51.Ke4 Kxa4 52.Kf5 Kb5 53.Kg5 Kc6 54.Kxh5 Kd7 55.Kg6 Ke8 56.Kg7+ -)

**A)** 39.a4 h5 40.gxh5 gxh5 41.Kc5 a5 (41... Ke5 42.Kb6 Kd6 43.Kxa6 Kc6 44.a5 Kc7 45.Kb5 Kb7) 42.Kb5 Kd5 43.Kxa5 Kc6 44.Ka6 Kc5 45.a5 Kc6 46.Ka7 Kc7 47.a6 Kc8 48.Kb6 Kb8 49.Kc6 Ka7 50.Kd6 Kxa6 51.Ke6 Kb6 52.Kf6 Kc6 53.Kg5 Kd6 54.Kxh5 Ke7 55.Kg6 Kf8 =;

**B)** 39.Ke4 39... Kd6 40.a4! (40.h5 gxh5 41.gxh5 Ke6 42.a3 Kf6 43.Kf4 =)

**B1)** 40... Ke6 41.a5

**B1a)** 41... h5 42.g5 Kd6 43.Kd4 Ke6 44.Kc5 Kf5 45.Kb6+ -;

**B1b)** 41... g5 42.h5+ -;

**Bc)** 41... Kf6 42.Kd5 h5 43.g5+ (43.gxh5 gxh5 44.Kc6 Ke6 45.Kb6 Kd6 46.Kxa6 Kc6 47.

Ka7 Kc7 48.a6 Kc8 49.Kb6 Kb8 50.Kc6 Ka7 51.Kd6 Kxa6 52.Ke6 Kb6 53.Kf6 Kc6 54.Kg6 Kd6 55.Kxh5 Ke7 56.Kg6 Kf8 =) 43... Kf5 44.Kc6 Kg4 45.Kb6 Kxh4 46.Kxa6 Kg3 47.Kb6 h4 48.a6 h3 49.a7 h2 50.a8Q+ -;

**B1d)** 41... Kd6 42.Kd4 Kc6 43.Ke5 g5 44.hxg5 hxg5 45.Kf5 Kb5 46.Kxg5 Kxa5 47.Kf4 Kb4 48.g5+ -;

**B2)** 40... a5 41.Kd4 g5 42.h5 Ke6 43.Ke4 (43.Kc5? Ke5 44.Kb6 Kf4 45.Kxa5 Kxg4 46.Kb5 Kxh5 47.a5 g4 48.a6 g3 49.a7 g2 =) 43... Kf6 44.Kd5+ - ]

### 38.Ke4

[ To tables leads 38.a3 Kc6 (38... a5 39.a4 Kc6 40.Kc4 Kb6 41.Kd5) 39.Kc4 (39.Ke5? Kb5 40.Kf6 Ka4 41.Kg6 Kxa3 42.Kxh6 a5 43.Kxg5 a4 44.h4 Kb3 45.h5 a3 46.h6 a2 47.h7 a1Q-+) 39... Kb6

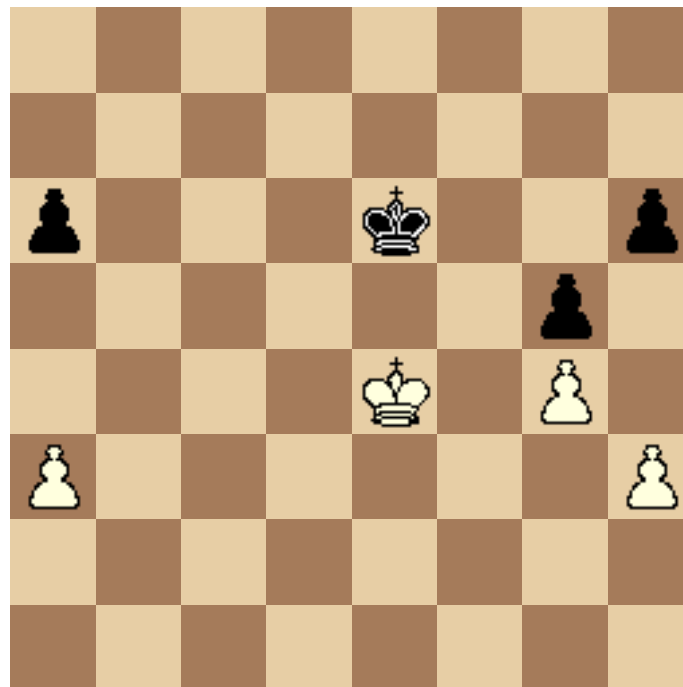
**A)** 40.a4 Kc6 (40... Ka5 41.Kb3 Kb6 42.Kb4 Kc6 =) 41.a5 Kd6 42.Kd4 Kc6 43.Ke5 Kb5 44.Kf6 Kxa5 45.Kg6 Kb4;

**B)** 40.Kb4 40... Kc6 41.a4 Kb6 42.a5+ Kc6 43.Kc4 = ]

### 38... Ke6

[ But not 38... Kc5? 39.Kf5 Kb4 40.Kg6 Ka3 41.Kxh6 Kxa2 42.Kxg5 a5 43.h4 a4 44.h5 a3 45.h6 Kb1 46.h7 a2 47.h8Q+ - ]

### 39.a3



The blacks seem to be in zugzwang, but [ If 39.a4? a5 = ]

### 39... h5!

The most difficult play of the game, own of an artistic end! An excellent conception of Takes. The other 39 facilmemente plays lose [... Kf7? 40.Kd5+ -; 39... Ke7? 40.Ke5+ -; 39... Kd6? 40.Kf5 Kd5 41.Kg6 Ke4 42.Kxh6 Kf4 43.a4 a5 44.Kh5+ -; 39... Kf6? 40.Kd5 h5 41.a4 hxg4 42.hxg4 a5 43.Kd6 Kf7 44.Ke5 Ke7 45.Kf5 Kd6 46.Kxg5 Kc5 47.Kf5 Kb4 48.g5 Kxa4 49.g6+ -; 39... a5? 40.a4

**A)** 40... Kf6 41.Kd5 h5 ( 41... Ke7 42.Kc6+ -; 41... Kf7 42.Kc6+ -) 42.Kd6 hxg4 43. hxg4 Kf7 44.Kc7 Ke6 45.Kb6 Kd5 46.Kxa5+ -;

**B)** 40... Kd6 41.Kd4 (41.Kf5? Kc5 42.Kg6 Kb4 43.Kxh6 Kxa4 44.Kxg5 Kb5 45.h4 a4-+) 41... Kc6 (41... Ke6 42.Kc5 Ke5 43.Kb5 Kd6 44.Kxa5 Kc5+ -) 42.Kc4 Kb6 43.Kd5+ - ]

## 40.gxh5

Now all the variations take to the tie [ 40.a4 hxg4 41.hxg4 a5 42.Kd4 Kd6 =; 40.Kd4 hxg4 41.hxg4 Kd6 =; 40.h4 hxg4 41.hxg5 g3 42.Kf3 Kf5 =; 40.Kf3 hxg4+ (40... h4 41. Ke4 a5 42.a4+ -) 41.Kxg4 Kf6 42.a4 a5 = ]

## 40... Kf6 41.a4

[ the alternatives were 41.Kd5 Kg7 42.a4 (42.Kc6 Kh6 43.Kb6 Kxh5 44.Kxa6 Kh4 45.a4 Kxh3 46.a5 g4 47.Kb7 g3 =) 42... Kh6 43.a5 Kxh5 44.Kc6 Kh4 45.Kb6 Kxh3 46.Kxa6 g4 47.Kb7 g3 48.a6 =; 41.Ke3 Kg7 42.Kf3 Kh7 =; 41.Kf3 Kg7 =; 41.a4

**A)** 41... a5 42.Kf3 (42.Kd5 Kg7 43.Kc6 Kh6 44.Kb5 Kxh5 45.Kxa5 Kh4 46.Kb5 Kxh3 47. a5 g4 48.a6 g3 49.a7 g2 50.a8Q g1Q =) 42... Kg7 43.Kg4 (43.Kg3 Kh7 =) 43... Kh6 44. h4 gxh4 45.Kxh4 Kh7 46.Kg5 Kg7 47.Kf5 (47.Kf4 Kh6 48.Kg4 Kg7) 47... Kh6 48.Ke5 (48.Kg4 Kh7 49.Kf4 Kh6) 48... Kxh5 49.Kd5 Kg5 50.Kc5 Kf6 51.Kb5 Ke7 52.Kxa5 Kd8 53.Kb6 Kc8 =;

**B)** 41... Kg7 42.Kf5 (42.a5 Kh6 43.Kd5 Kxh5 44.Kc6 Kh4 45.Kb6 Kxh3 46.Kxa6 g4 47. Kb7 g3 48.a6 g2 49.a7 g1Q 50.a8Q =) 42... Kh6 43.Kg4 (43.a5 Kxh5 44.Kf6 Kh4 45. Kg6 g4 46.hxg4 Kxg4 47.Kf6 Kf4 48.Ke6 Ke4 49.Kd6 Kf5 50.Kc6 Ke6 51.Kb6 Kd7 52. Kxa6 Kc8 =) 43... a5 44.h4 = ] **1/2-1/2**

# Sergy Kislov-Dorokhin Voronezh 1998

This is one of Bobby Fischer's favourite openings. "I recently played a game where I think I came up with a new idea in the Poisoned Pawn Variation of the Najdorf Sicilian. The game went 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Nb3 and after some thought I played 8...Qe3+. Is this a new idea or has it been played before? I ended up losing the game, but I can't blame it on the opening. Is this a good line to play or is it rather bad?"

The line with 8...Qe3+ has been played before and is considered to be slightly better for White. This is because in the resulting ending after 9 Qe2 White has better development and a space advantage. I suspect that if you play such a sharp opening it is not in your interest to allow White off the hook by entering the somewhat calmer arena of entering an ending. Instead, 8...Nbd7 maintains the tension. The majority of games in the 8... Qe3+ are long wins by White or dull draws. Here is an opportunity to see how Black can easily go wrong.

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Nb3 Qe3+**  
(See Diagram)

The Queen enters the heart of White's position.



**9 Qe2**

White is obliged to offer an exchange of Queens. If 9 Be2? then your opponent is very generous and you should thank him after 9...Nxe4.

**9...Qxe2+ 10 Bxe2 b5?!**



Black carries on in typical Sicilian fashion by expanding on the queenside. In this situation it is not appropriate when opening the h1-a8 diagonal prematurely can lead to problems. A better bet is the more sedate 10...Nbd7 to catch up on development. Stoliar-Krogius, Leningrad 1957, continued 11 0-0-0 (with the idea Na5-c4) 11...b6 12 Bf3 (perhaps 12 f5! should be considered) 12...Bb7 13 Rd3 0-0-0 14 Rhd1 Be7 15 Bh4 Rhe8 16 Bf2 Kc7 17 g3 Nc5 18 Nxc5 dxc5 19 e5 Bxf3 20 Rxf3 Rxd1+ 21 Kxd1 Rd8+ 22 Ke2 Nd5 23 Nxd5+ Rxd5 ½-½.

### 11 Bf3

Now the obvious threat is e5 to reveal a discovered attack on the a8 rook.

### 11...Bb7

It looks ugly but 11...Ra7 is a superior choice.

### 12 Na5! (See Diagram)



Black is already busted!



**12...Bc6**

12...Ra7 runs into 13 Nxb7 Rxb7 14 e5 winning.

**13 Nxc6 Nxc6 14 e5 Nd5 15 Nxd5 exd5 16 Bxd5**



White is a pawn up for nothing.

**16...Rc8 17 O-O-O Nb4 18 Be4 dxe5 19 Bf5 f6 20 Bxc8 fxg5 21 a3 1-0**

**V. Rajlich - I. Novikov**  
**[B97/16] Sicilian: Najdorf**  
**11 June 1999, Vermont**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2  
9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Nc6 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5 dxe5 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.  
Ne4 Be7 16.Be2 h5 17.O-O f5 18.Bf3 Ra7 19.Rb8 Rc7**



Novikov's 19...Rc7 seems to overturn ECO's assessment that this line ends in a draw. ECO gives 19...0-0 and 19...Kf7 as both leading to draws. Actually, Maurice Ashley had previously played 19...Rc7 against me, and he too won when I blundered with 20.Qf2? Qa5 when ...fxe4 is a winning threat, i.e. 21.Qg3 fxe4 and Black is winning. I went home and concluded that 19...Rc7 20.Kh1 was fine for White, but now I think otherwise. I couldn't believe that he played 20...fxe4, it seemed suicidal

**20.Kh1 fxe4 21.Bxe4 Qd6 22.Qe2**



seemed too strong, but Black holds and seems to win.

**Qc5 23.Qxa6 Kd8 24.Rd1+ Bd6 25.Qd3 Rd7 26.Ra8 Rf8 27.Qa6 Bb8 28.Rxd7+ Kxd7 29.Qd3+**



**Kc7 30.h3 Ba7 (38), 0-1.**

Tal,M - Bogdanovic,R [B97]  
 JUG-URS Budva (6), 1967

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2  
 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Nc6 11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.  
 Be2 dxe5 16.0-0 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Rf8 18.c4 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Bb7 20.Qc2



[20.Bd1!! N: Lilienthal. The threat is Rf3 and Ba4+ 20...Bb4 **a)**20...e4 21.Qc3+-; **b)**  
 20...Be7 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 (**b**)21...Kxe7 22.Qg5+) 22.Ba4+ Kd8 23.Qa5+ Kc8 24.c5+/-; **c)**  
 20...Rc8 21.Qe2 Be7 22.Qxe5 Rxc4 23.Qxg7+-; 21.Qb2+- (21.Qd3+-; 21.Qf2+-; 21.  
 Qe3+-; 21.Qc2+-) ]

20...e4 21.Bg4 Be7 22.Qf2 0-0-0 23.Bf4 Bd6 24.Bxe6+ Kb8 25.Qb6 Bxf4 26.  
 Qxd8+ Ka7 27.Rb1 Qd6



28.Bxd5 Bxd5 29.Qxd6 Bxd6 30.cxd5 1-0



# Polugaievsky variation

analysis: B96, Najdorf, 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4: Polougaievski variation: 7 b5

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[Introduction: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6](#)

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## Introduction

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1. e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



The Najdorf variation of sicilian was born little after the second world war, when the Soviet Masters appreciated with his right value the push e5 in this kind of structure, in spite of the late pawn d6 and the hole in d5.

**5...a6** is a flexible blow, which prepares already the counter-play with the wing-

injury by b5, and which still reserves the two possibilities, e6 or e5, the latter being now facilitated by the control of the square b5. Indeed, after the immediate 5... e5 the blacks has to take into account 6. Bb5+, for example 6. Bb5+ Nbd7 7. Nf5, with pressure.

**6.Bg5** this ambitious blow of bishop was extremely played during more than forty years, between the Fifties and 80. It is in a certain manner the best answer of principle, since the bishop is developed actively, accelerates the aggressive plans containing large-castling, fight for the control of d5 and prevents the traditional reaction e5, because of the simple variation 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 (or 7... gxf6 8. Nb3) 8. Nd5 Qd8 9. Nf5. Najdorf with Bg5 is perhaps the most analyzed variation history of the failures, the play becomes extremely sharp, enamelled then tactical variations all more complex the ones than the others.

**6... e6** One can also play Nbd7, but then the white can develop their bishop-king actively by 7. Bc4, and the white give each other a pleasant choice between the large one and small-castling.

#### **7.f4**

7. Qd2 in the spirit of Richter-rauzer sicilian can seem logical, but the blacks then have counterpart 7... h6!, who forces the white to exchange their bishop: 7 h6 8. Be3 Ng4, bus on 8. Bh4? the blacks answer 8... Nxe4!. After 8. Bxf6 Qxf6, the blacks go well, if they do not forget to repatriate their injury in d8 if the white make large-castling (indeed after Be7 the injury in f6 would be completely cut its base): indeed the injury in f6 is exposed to the attack of white pawns, and it is too far away from the wing-injury to generate sufficient counter-play.

A blow like 7. f3, good in Richter-rauzer and the English attack, proves too slow in Najdorf Bg5: not to have played Nc6 makes it possible the blacks to immediately retort Qb6 and the white, which did not have time to play Qd2, cannot retort by large-castling. The white pawn in f3 proves completely useless in a play of the variation type of the poisoned pawn: the white are private of large-castling, the push of this pawn weakened the diagonal g1/a7, and the white do not even have the usual openings by e5 or f5. All this carries out to the conclusion which thus should immediately be prepared the push in the center e5 and which 7. f4 is the best blow of the position, even if other answers are acceptable, for example Qd3, Be2, or Qf3.

#### **7... b5!?**



This blow of pawn to the wing initiates the Polougaïevski variation. It was played for the premiere time by Nikola Krogius in 1957, but it is Polougaïevski which, since 1958 until A its death in 1995, has carried end of arm the system, almost all the blows and black defenses are owed to him. In spite of this effort of a whole life, it is difficult to carry a final judgment on this variation which often had the hard life.

The blacks played the immediate push b5 which is the most ambitious blow by planning a fast pressure on e4 by Bb7 and b4, while the injury after Nbd7 goes in b6 into only once; unfortunately the blacks do not do anything against the central push e5 and take a serious delay of development.

The white have multiple aggressive choices at disposal, in particular three great variations:

- the first would deserve to bear the name of Zagorovsky, which was champion of the world by correspondence, 8. e5 dxe5 9. fxe5 Qc7 10. exf6 Qe5+ 11. Be2 Qxg5 12. 0-0, born from the part Zagorovsky - Polugaevsky, Voronei 1959;
- variation Bronstein - Muchnik, 12. Qd3! (Bronstein - Polugaevsky, CH the USSR 1961);
- the variation of Simagine, 10. Qe2. Moreover white have dangerous additional possibilities, like 10. Nf3!?, or 10. Bxb5+!? (part Tal - Polugaevsky, 1/4 finale of the candidates, Alma-ATA 1980).

More still than in any other sicilian, the black player plays free or double by taking tactical risks. The dialectical one of the opening, which is attractive, resides in the certainty which have the blacks to obtain a splendid position if they resist the white pressure, consequently those absolutely do not have any safety, they are condemned to attack without slackening as of the first blows. The situations which result from this are always tended, ultra-tactics. One often intends to say in such a case which



the general principles mean nothing any more, and which only long and precise calculations make it possible to evaluate the positions obtained. It is however not completely exact; as in all the other sicilian ones, the instinct and the direction of the position play a paramount part. Simply the unusual diagram adopted by the blacks appreciably modifies the keys of the evaluation of the position.

For example, contrary to what occurs in the variation from the poisoned pawn, the player of Polougaïevski knows instinct which should be rejected any material profit which does not follow a precise dynamic goal, quite simply because the material report/ratio plays a rather weak part in many variations, it is much more essential to limit the white possibilities of attack to the maximum by seeking the coordination of the parts, the reinforced control of key squares, and to neutralize their advantage of development.

In spite of the profusion of variations exposed here, they constitute only one weak choice of the existing analyses, in particular from many defective possibilities for the blacks were eliminated. The Polougaïevski variation has always bad press and the general opinion that this variation is too risky and doubtful is obviously largely spread. But in spite of its excellent theoretical statute the variation of the poisoned pawn proves quite as delicate to play, and the other continuations after 7. f4 is seldom comfortable (in particular 7... Be7 which undergoes hard attacks since the years 80). It also should be noted that a many prestigious large-Masters ventured to adopt it at least once; in addition to Polougaïevski: Fischer, Tigran Petrossian, Mecking, Ljubojevic, Van Wely, Ivanchouk, Sanakoev, Planinc, Tatai, Toukmakov, Kovacevic, Stean, Bronstein, Browne, Rodriguez, Quinteros, Gallagher, Hodgson, Van der Vliet, Vera, Yermolinsky, Van Oosterom...

**8.e5** this blow (a central reaction to an attack of side!) is the only attempt to refute the 7th blow of the blacks, those go very well if not.

The fact that all the others 8th white blows failed illustrates two great sicilian principles well: a refutation can be only in the principal variation, and the forced variations tend to support the white.

For example after standard 8. Qf3 the blacks answer 8... Bb7, justifying the push b5. fully [ 8.Qf3 Bb7 9.O-O-O!? after passive blows as a3 the black development Nbd7 - possibly followed Rc8 of Rxc3 becomes all the more strong, because white castling would be disintegrated. 9... Nbd7! (9... b4?! 10.Nd5!! exd5 11.e5! h6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.e6! with a very strong attack.) 10.Bd3 and the blacks have two blows at disposal which give them excellent a part: 10 Qb6 and 10... Be7. Partly fast, it is even possible to test the sacrifice of quality 10... Rc8 11. Rhe1 Rxc3!?, extremely speculative but also extremely interesting; 8.Be2 b4! 9.Na4 Be7! 10.Bf3 Ra7 11.O-O Bd7 12.b3 Bxa4 13.bxa4 O-O and the blacks go to wonder, part Suétine - Polougaïevski, CH the USSR 1960.;

8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Qb6 10.Nf3 (10.Nxe6? fxe6 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Qc5!-/+) 10...

Bb7 11.Bh4 b4 12.Nb1 d5 13.e5 Ne4 and the blacks have a good play, Tolouch - Hoods, Hamburg 1960. ]

8... dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7



This tactical easy way makes it possible to avoid losing a part. It is of course obvious that to send the injury to the walk in the center of the chess-board with all its undeveloped parts has nothing of attracting, but the blacks have other assets. From this basic position of the Polougaïevski variation, the ways diverge.

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**First part: deviations with the tenth blow: 10 Nf3 and 10. Bxb5+**

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10.Bxb5+!?



Blow invented by the Vitolinch Latvian, assisting it of Tal. 10... axb5 11.exf6 Qe5+ 12.Qe2 Qxg5 13.Ndxb5 Ra5! Polougaïevski in its match against Tal found this operation of turn which seems the best way of avoiding the fork in c7.

14.fxg7!?! Typical idea: the white want to play Ne4 and fxg7 reinforces this operation by weakening the square d6.

Van der Wiel played 14. 0-0 in a part against Van Wely. (14.0-0 gxf6 15.a4) 14... Bxg7 Qxg7 is possible, preserving the control of d6, but the white have the option of large-castling then. 15.Ne4 Qe5

the incomprehensible amateurs of positions can test 15... Rxb5!?? 16 Nxc8 Rxc8 17.Nbd6+ Ke7 18.0-0 f5 18.Rad1! Rd5! 19.Qc4 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 fxe4 21. Nxc8+ Kf7 22.Nd6+ Kg6 23.Nxe4



Tal - Polougaïevski, 1/4 finale of the candidates, Alma-ATA 1980 (2). The white have a light advantage theoretically but the situation is if balanced that makes of it all depends on the skill of the two players. ]

**10.Nf3!?**



Polougaïevski thinks that this blow is against the spirit of the variation and only little attention grants to him, but the blacks always do not have the easy life.

**10... b4!?** forced method. 10... Nfd7 is the other choice, with the possible continuations 11. Ne4 Bb7, 11. Qd2 Bb4, or 11. Bd3 Nxe5.

**11.Nb5! axb5 12.exf6 Nd7 13.Bxb5 Ra5 14.Qe2 gxf6 15.Bxf6 Rg8** and here 16. Ne5 Rxb5! fail for the white, but after 16. Nd4 Qb6 17. Qc4, the blacks are very annoyed. The blacks should seek improvements in this line. Fritz proposes the twisted idea 13... b3!?, and especially an innovation with the 17th blow. **16.Nd4 Qb6 17.Qc4! Ba6!!**



perhaps safety comes from this astonishing idea of Fritz [ on 17... Bc5 18.Bxd7+ Bxd7 19.0-0-0+/= Nunn ]

**18.Qc6!** probably most dangerous for the blacks.

18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Qc7 Nxf6 20.Nc6 Rd5 21.Qb8+ Kd7 22.Ne5+ Ke7 23.Rf1 Bh6! 24.

Qc7+ Rd7 25.Qc5+ (25.Nxd7 Bd2+! 26.Kf2 Nxd7 27.Rad1 Rc8 28.Qg3-/+ with a pleasant choice between 28... Rxc2 and 28... Qb6+ 29. Ke2 Rg8!) 25... Ke8 26.Rxf6 (26.Nxd7 Bd2+!) 26... Rxc2 and in spite of material balance and the tower d7 in catch, the white are seen subjected to all kinds of problems. The blacks seized the initiative and their threats are most pressing by far;

18.Bxd7+ Kxd7 19.Qb3 Be7! 20.0-0-0 on Bxe7??, the blacks play Re5+ and take in d4 on failure, the white completely being then lost. (20.Qf3 Bb7) 20... Bxf6 21.Qf3 (21.Nxe6+ Kc8 22.Nf4 Bxb2+! 23.Qxb2 Qe3+ 24.Kb1 Qxf4 25.Rd4 Qc7) 21... Bxd4 22.Qxf7+ Kd6 23.Qxg8 Rxa2-+ ]

**18... Rxb5 19.Qa8+ Nb8 20.Nxb5 Bxb5 21.0-0-0 Bd6 22.g3 Bc7 23.Qe4 Rg6** and the position is not clear. \*

## Second part: 10 Qe2

### 10.Qe2



This very dangerous blow was imagined by the Simaguine large-Master, considered for his original ideas. The idea is simple: to maintain the bastion e5, to allow an immediate large-castling, and to preserve the pair of bishop. The problem is that the bishop one remained in f1 finds private squarees and that the square e2 constitutes only one provisional station for the injury.

**10... Nfd7 the 11.0-0-0** white now exert a terrible pressure on the column D, in particular on the square d8 thanks to Rd1 and in Bg5, which makes it possible to still

maintain for a blow the pawn e5:

11 Qxe5? 12 Qxe5 Nxe5 13. Ndx5! + -;

11 Nxe5? 12 Ndx5 axb5 13. Qxe5! + -. the checkmate in d8 allows this kind of extravagance, also the blacks must remain very careful.

**11... Nc6!** neutralizing the enemy number 1, the knight d4.

The best surest blow and is without any doubt 11... Nc6.

11 Bb7 is however still regarded as the principal line but the positions which result from this unchained the analysts lasting of the decades, and attracted magnetically all the players of Polugaevsky. The play quickly becomes incredible a maelstrom tactical where the white sacrifice parts in all the directions, the blacks often cannot even take them and must seek safety in the counter-attack, the formation of against-threats, the injuries are found nailed and in catch simultaneously then, if the blacks survive, occur of the finales not less complicated with incomprehensible material reports/ratios.

### [Analyze blow 11... Bb7](#)

**12.Nxc6 Qxc6**

[ On 13.Ne4 Bb7 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Rxd6 Qc7



give an about equal position for the blacks: they will make pressure on the column C by Rc8 while the bad position of the white injury is felt, the white are forced to waste a time to develop their bishop white squares, left Koch - Olafsson, Reykjavik 1993. ]

### 13.Qd3!



the idea of Grigori Ravinski. The white injury returns on the column D and bishop the f1 threat to enter concerned on the large diagonal by Be2-Bf3.

**13... h6!** Still a blow discovered by Polougaïevsky, which follows a known diagram: to dislodge the bishop one of black squares of the control of d8 and e7. The blacks are unaware of the threat of the Be2-Bf3 white. 13... b4 is interesting too. **14.Bh4** the most popular answer. It is possible also to accept the sacrifice of quality suggested by the blacks, but the position becomes with double edge.

[ 14.Be2!? hxg5! consisting, but Qc7 seems also possible. 15.Bf3 Qc7 16.Bxa8 Nxe5 17.Qg3 f6 18.Kb1 (18.h4?! gxh4 19.Rxh4 Nd3+!) 18... b4! still a blow of Polougaïevski. 19.Ne2 Rh4©



and the blacks have compensations sufficient for quality: more active parts, the pair the bishop ones, and a majority 4 against 2 with the wing-king. ]

**14... Bb7 15.Be2 Qc7 16.Rhe1 Nc5!** [ 16... Nxe5? 17.Qg3! g5 18.Bxb5+! axb5 19. Nxb5 and the white are definitely better according to Nunn (and Polougaïevski). ]  
**17.Qd4!** maintaining the pressure on the column D while supporting the pawn e5.

[ 17.Qh3 b4!? 17 Rc8 is binding to the players who do not want to return in the complications induced by 17... b4. 18.Nb5! axb5! 19.Bxb5+ Bc6 20.Qf3 Nb3+!!



was the continuation played in the part Grünfeld - Polougaïevski, Interzonal Riga 1979. Grünfeld, completely struck by this thunder clap, played 21. Kb1 and after 21... Na5 remained with a part of less.

20... Nb3+ led to inextricable complications and probably to the null one.

21.axb3[ ] Ra1+ 22.Kd2 Qd7+ 23.Ke3 Bc5+ 24.Kf4 g5+ 25.Kg3! Rxd1!

(25... gxh4+? 26.Kh3! Rxd1 27.Bxc6! Rxe1 28.Bxd7+ Kxd7 29.Qb7++ -) 26. Bxc6 (26.Rxd1?! gxh4+ 27.Kh3 Bxf3 28.Rxd7 Be2! 29.Rb7+ Bxb5 30.Rb8+ Ke7 31.Rxh8 Bd4 Polougaïevski; 26.Qxc6 Rd3+! 27.cxd3 gxh4+ 28.Kxh4 Qxc6 29.Bxc6+ Ke7 with the null one ensured for the blacks in spite of two pawns of less, the white can nothing undertake with such a structure of pawns and the bishop ones opposite colors.)

26... Rxe1 27.Bxd7+ Kf8! and the situation is not clear whole according to Nunn. Polougaïevsky takes action pursuant 28. Qf6 Re3+ 29. Kg4 Re4+ 30. Kh3 Rxh4+ 31. Kg3 Rh7 with nullity. ]

**17... g5** 17... Be7 is possible also, but the white have the choice between 18. Bxb5!? or 18. Bxe7 Qxe7 19. b4! **18.Bf2**





with a not very clear position. Rc8 was already tested here, while Fritz recommends 18... b4 19. Bb5+ (19 Nb1 b3!) axb5 20. Nxb5 Qd7. \*

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### Third part: 10 exf6 Qe5+ 11. Be2 Qxg5 12. 0-0

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**12.0-0** The most solid option for the white. It seems that it is that which relatively poses less problems with the blacks. **12... Qe5!**



This foolish blow was discovered by Polugaïevski and completely supplanted the old blow, 12... Ra7, which however starts one of the key plans of the Variation, namely neutralization of the white activity about the column D by the operation thématique

Ra7-Rd7.

How the blacks can be allowed to still play a blow of injury without developing their parts?

The justification is not paradoxical: Qe5 is a positional blow. The blacks appreciably improve the position of their injury, create threats (Bc5 for example), and reduce the possibilities of the white parts: in particular there is no more Ne4.

There is a rare example where the position of the blacks is at the same time extremely underdeveloped and very active: if the white let the blacks play Bc5, Ra7-d7, Bb7 without reacting, they are exposed at worst the troubles.

[ 12... Ra7? this old blow cannot be recommended any more. 13.Ne4 Qe5 14.Qd3 Rd7 15.Nf3! Qxb2 this blow according to criteria's of the variation is properly suicidal but Qc7 is insufficient as much, and exchanges it injuries is bad. (15... Rxd3 16.Nxe5 Re3 17.Bd3+/- the tower e3 lack of squares, in more of the delay of development.) 16.Qe3 Bb7 17.Rab1! Qxc2 18.Nfg5 Rg8 for example. 19.Rbc1 Qxa2 20.Qa7 Nc6 21. Rxc6 Bxc6 22.Qb8+ Rd8 23.Qc7 Bd7 24.Nxf7! Kxf7 25.Bh5+ g6 26.Ng5+ Ke8 27.f7+ Ke7 28.Qc5 # ]

**13.Nf3!** still an astonishing blow. This retreat of the knight is probably the blow most extremely; in a certain manner, because it is the blow more forcing. [ 13.Kh1!? the variation to 13. The most promising Nf3 13... Ra7; 13.Bf3?! Ra7 14.Nc6 (14.Ne4!?) 14... Nxc6 15.Bxc6+ Bd7 16.Bxd7+ Rxd7 17.Qf3 Bd6!; 13.Bh5 g6 14.Bf3 Ra7 15.Ne4 Rd7 16.c3 Bb7 ~ ~ Kavalek - Polougaïevski, Bugojno 1980 ]

**13... Bc5+** the first part of the blacks is developed with tempo. [ 13... Qe3+ is a blow of doubtful reputation, which did not prevent Ivantchouk to adopt it against Peter Leko in Monaco with the tournament Melody Amber 2001 (to the blind man it is true.) 14.Kh1 Nd7 15.Re1 Qa7 the blows of Ivantchouk are implicitly related to the need for preventing the blow of knight in d5 which made this variation highly suspect. ]

**14.Kh1 Qxf6** the blacks capture the pawn to keep their intact castling. Now how the bishop one was developed in c5, they do not have more really the choice and unfortunately, the injury is found again badly placed in f6!

**15.Ne4 Qe7 16.Ne5** [ 16.Nfg5 f5 17.Bh5+ g6 18.Nxc5 (18.Nxh7 Kf7!) 18... Qxc5 = ]  
**16... f5**



[ 16... 0-0 is a reasonable variation, but gives in fact a position levelled very vaguely lower, which is not in general taste of the player of Polougaïevski. 17.Nxf7 Rxf7 18. Rxf7 Kxf7 19.Bh5+ Kg8 20.Nxc5 Ra7 21.Ne4 Rd7 = ]

**17.Bxb5+!?** this sacrifice seems the best way of fighting for the advantage, the other being 17. Bh5+. [ 17.Bh5+ g6 18.Nxg6! hxg6 19.Bxg6+ Kf8 20.Nxc5 Rh6! 21.Nxe6+ (21.Qg4!? Fritz 21... Nc6 22.a4) 21... Bxe6 22.Bxf5 Bf7! ~ ~ the blacks gathered their forces and their king is sheltered. There is still an example where blacks emergent with a part for three pawns. ]

**17... axb5 18.Nxc5 0-0!** the surest blow and also probably best. [ 18... Qxc5 19.Qh5+ g6 20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.Qxh8+ Kf7 (21... Qf8 22.Qe5 Bd7 23.c3!+/- b4! 24.cxb4 Nc6 25. Qg3 Nxb4 26.a3 Nd5 27.Qxg6+ Qf7) 22.Rad1 Nc6 23.Qh7+ Kf6 24.Qc7!+/- Dimitrov - Luft, 1993. The air of nothing, the blacks have many problems, because of the infiltration of the injury and the control of the open columns. ]

**19.b4 Bb7!**



This blow was suggested by Laurent Guidarelli. The blacks yield their beautiful bishop, but that dissolves the pair of knights in the center and the blacks easily obtain the equality thanks to the pressure on the pawns has and C [ 19... Na6 this blow is the theoretical blow, but the blacks do not seem to equalize. 20.Qf3 Nxb4!? This blow clears up the position.

a) 20... Nc7?! Fritz 21.Rfd1!? Crafty (21.a4! bxa4 22.c4+/- Fritz) 21... Nd5 22.Rxd5! exd5 23.Qxd5+ Kh8 24.Ng6+ hxg6 25.Qxa8+/-;

b) 20... Nxc5 Gallagher 21.Qxa8 Ne4 22.Qa5 Qh4 23.Kg1 Nc3 24.Rae1 Qd4+ 25.Kh1 Bb7 26.Qc7+/- the blacks pain to justify their sacrifice of quality; 21.Qxa8 Qxc5 22.Nd3 Nxd3 23.cxd3+/- After this forced sequence, the blacks have a pawn for quality and a majority with the wing-king, but it is difficult to say that they equalized. ]

**20.Qd3** [ 20.Nxb7 Qxb7 21.Qd6 Ra6 =; 20.Qe2 Na6 21.Ned3 Nxb4 (21... Nxc5 22.Nxc5 Bd5 23.Qxb5 (23.Rfd1 Bc4 24.Qe5 Rxa2 25.Rxa2 Bxa2 26.Rd7 Qg5-/+)) 23... Rfb8-/+ ) 22.Nxb4 Qxc5 23.Qxe6+ =/+ ] **20... Na6 21.Qxb5 Nxc5 22.Qxc5 Qxc5 23.bxc5 Rfc8 24.Nd7 Ra7! 25.Rfd1 Bd5 26.c4 = \***

## Fourth part: 10. exf6 Qe5+ 11. Be2 Qxg5 12. Qd3

### 12.Qd3



Bronstein, Muchnik. The white want to carry out large-castling because the threats on the column D immediately become very pressing, on the contrary king-side castling. Unfortunately this plan will encounter tactical problems and the white will have to be satisfied with Rd1 and to play with the king in the center.

**12... Qxf6 13.Rf1** [ 13.0-0-0 Be7! do not pose any problem for the blacks which prepare with roquer quietly. On Rhf1 the black injury has a failure in h6. ]

**13... Qe5 14.Rd1** Malheureusement for the white large-castling is bad, because of 14. 0-0-0 Ra7 15. Nf3 Qf4+! and the white have an execrable choice between 16. Kb1 Rd7 and 16. Nd2 Qc7, knowing that 16. Nd2 Qe5 forces already the null one.

[ 14.Nf3!? an idea of Nunn. As in the great variation 14. Rd1 the white suffer to still see their king with the face, having remained in the center, the white try here to play despite everything large-castling in circumstances more favorable than with 14. 0-0-0. 14... Qd6 15.Qe3!?



a blow to be analyzed closely, because it is opposed to the vital operation Ra7-Rd7. 15... Nc6! I think that it is the only blow, because the blacks have sorrow to occur from Ra7, would be this only to laterally protect f7. 16.Ne4! the critical test.

16... Qb4+ too risked, the sanction falls, immediate and shingling. 17.c3 Qxb2 18. Rd1 Be7 (18... Qxa2 19.Nfg5 Ne5 20.Nxf7 Nxf7 21.Bh5+ -) 19.Qb6! Na7 (19... Bd7 20.Rxd7) 20.Qc7! Qa3 21.Rd6! f5 22.Ne5+ -

16... Qc7! 17.0-0-0!? (17.Nfg5 Nb4! (17... Nd8 Laurent Guidarelli 18.Bh5 Qxc2 19. Nxf7 Bb4+ 20.Nc3 0-0 21.Rf2 Qxf2+ 22.Qxf2 Nxf7 23.Bf3+/- Laurent Guidarelli 23... Ne5 24.0-0-0) 18.Bd1 Nd5!

(18... Qxc2!? 19.Rxf7 Laurent Guidarelli. Unfortunately (or rather fortunately for the Variation) Crafty the calculator found an antidote. 19... Qxb2! Crafty 20.Rxf8 +! (20.Qb6 Qxa1 21.Qc7 Qe5!!-+ )



20... Rxf8 21.Nd6+ Kd8 22.Nxc8 (22.Qb6+ Kd7-+) 22... Qxa1 23.Nxe6+ Kxc8 24.Qc5 + Kd7 25.Nxf8+ Ke8!!-/+ ) 19.Qf2 Bb4+ 20.c3 Nxc3 21.Qxf7+ Qxf7 22.Nd6+ Bxd6 23.Nxf7 Ba3!!



24.Nxh8 (24.bxa3 0-0-/+ ) 24... Bxb2 25.Bf3 Ra7 26.Kd2 Bxa1 27.Rxa1 Rc7-+) 17... Nb4 18.c3! Be7! after this blow, the blacks arrive at castling and it thus seems that 15. Qe3 is insufficient to refute the variation. (18... f5 19.Nfg5 fxe4 (19... Be7 20. Nxe6! Bxe6 (20... Qe5 21.Nxg7+! Qxg7 22.Bh5+ Kf8 23.cxb4+ -) 21.Nd6+ Bxd6 22. Qxe6+ Qe7 23.Qxd6+ -) 20.Qxe4 Nxa2+ 21.Kb1+ -) 19.Nfg5!? 0-0 (19... Nd5 20. Rxd5 (20.Qf2 Bxg5+ (20... f5!?) 21.Nxg5 0-0=/+ ) 20... exd5 21.Nd6+ (21.Rxf7 dxe4 22.Rxg7 Qe5 23.Bh5+ Kd7-+) 21... Qxd6 22.Nxf7 Qe6 23.Qxe6 Bxe6 24.Nxh8-+) 20.Qh3 h6!



and don't the blacks have anything to fear and even much with espérer.(20... Bxg5 +? 21.Nxg5 Nxa2+ (21... h6 22.Kb1 hxg5 23.cxb4 Bb7 24.Bd3 g6 25.Bxg6 = f5!? ~ ~) 22.Kb1 h6 23.Nxf7! Nxc3+ 24.Qxc3 Rxf7 25.Qxc7 Rxc7 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27. Rff8©) ]

**14... Ra7 15.Nf3 Qc7 16.Ng5!** improvement of Tal on the 16. Ne5 de Ljubojevic. [ 16. Ne5 Be7! 17.Nxf7 0-0! Ljubojevic - Polougaievski, Hilversum 1973] **16... f5** [ 16... Be7 17.Rxf7 Nc6



18.Rxg7 this blow constitutes the official refutation of 16... Be7 but it is an variation which did not say its last word yet.

(18.Qe4! I think that this blow is even stronger.

18... Ne5 19.Rxg7 h6 20.Nh7 Bh4+;

18... b4 19.Bh5; 18... Bd7 19.Rxd7 Qxd7 20.Rxg7+ -

18... Nd8 19.Rxg7 Qxh2 20.Qd4 Qg3+ 21.Kf1 Rf8+ 22.Nf3 Qc7 23.Nxb5 axb5 24. Bxb5+ Bd7 25.Rxe7+ Kxe7 26.Qh4+ Ke8 27.Bxd7+ Qxd7 28.Rxd7 Rxd7+/-)

18... Qxh2 19.Rxh7 Ne5 20.Rxe7+ (20.Rxh8+ Qxh8 21.Qe3 Rd7 22.Rxd7 Bxd7+/  
=) 20... Kxe7 21.Qd6+ Kf6 22.Nce4+ Kg6

(22... Kg7! this blow not mentioned in the book of Nunn should give better defensive chances. 23.g3

**a)** 23.Qc5 Rb7 24.g3 Ng6 25.Rd6 Re7 26.Qc3+ Kh6 27.Kd2 Rf8 28.Qe3 Kg7

29.Nc5 Rfe8 30.Nxa6 Bxa6 31.Rxa6 Rd8+ 32.Kc3;

**a1)** 29... Rf2

30.Rd8 Rf8 31.Rxf8; 30.Nxa6 Bxa6 31.Nxe6+ Kh7 32.Rxa6 30.Ngxe6+ Bxe6 31.Rxe6 Rxe6 32.Nxe6+ Kg8 33.Nd4 Qg2 34.Qe6+ Kh7 35.Nf5 Qb7 36.Kc1 Qc7 37.Bd3 Ne5 38.Be4;

**a2)** 29... Rf6

30.Rd8 Rf8 31.Rxf8 Kxf8 32.Ngxe6+ Bxe6 33.Nxe6+ Kf7) 30.Ngxe6+ Bxe6 31.Nxe6+ Kf7 32.Ng5+ Kg7 33.Re6 Rfxe6 34.Nxe6+ Kg8=/+ 35. Qb6 Qxg3;

**b)** 23.Nxe6+ Bxe6 24.Qxe6 this blow of injury is carried out without failure and the blacks have time to counter-attack. 24... Qg1+ 25.Kd2 Qd4+ 26.Kc1 Qxe4-+ and obviously the white do not have anything for their turn in less; 23... Qg1+ 24.Kd2 Qxd1+ 25.Kxd1 Rd7 26.Nxe6+ Kh6 27.Qxd7 Bxd7~~)

23.Nxe6 Bxe6 24.Qxe6+ Kh7 25.Rd5 Qh1+ (25... Qh4+ 26.Kd1 Qxe4 27.Bd3) 26. Kd2 ] **17.Qd4!** the white play a very strong plan of direct aggression with threats in a blow (here Bh5+), primary educations but difficult to avoid. **17... Qe7!**





This new operation of quite strange injury is due to Hodgson and Gallagher. The blacks sacrifice quality. They do not prevent Bh5+ but seek counter-play by attacking the knight g5, exactly in the spirit of the variation.

Analyze blows 17... e5 and 17... h5

**18.Bh5+** [ 18.Nge4 h5 19.Nd6+ Qxd6 20.Qxa7 Qe5! threatening Bc5 21.Qd4 Nd7! with compensations sufficient for quality, Rodriguez - Polougaïevski, interzonal of Bienne 1985. ] **18... g6 19.Qxh8 Qxg5 20.Bf3**



an absolutely critical position to evaluate the viability of the variation.

**20... Nd7!?** Polougaïevski invented this blow which sacrifices quality and the pawn h7. The positions which result from this are very difficult to evaluate, the blacks giving up of the material to take again the initiative, benefitting from the defective position of the white parts. The white have to only get clear to gain but it is not at all easy on a precise

play of the blacks, the white king does not feel at ease. [ 20... Rc7? 21.Rf2+/-; 20... Rg7 21.Rf2+/= the Rf2-d2 operation is even stronger here than against 20... Nd7 because the black parts are very badly placed. 21... b4 22.Rfd2! Koch - Gallagher, Lyon 1993; 20... b4!? ]

**21.Qxh7** '+/= ' Wedberg [ 21.Bc6!? Kf7 22.Qxh7+ Bg7 23.Bxd7 Rxd7 24.Rxd7+ Bxd7 25.Rf2 Bc6 26.Qh3 Bd5! 27.Nd1 also deserves the attention; 21.Rf2!? Ferdinand Hellers 21... Nf6! 22.Bc6+ Kf7 23.Rd8 Bh6!! 24.Rxc8 Qe3+ 25.Kf1 Qc1+ = with the null one by perpetual failure, analyzes of Ftacnik. The very adventurous spirits very can test the incredible blow 24... Rd7!??, but the white can always take the null one (25. Bxd7), or accept the challenge by 25. Rf8+. 24 g4!? is another possibility interesting for the white which probably leads to null after 24... Qc1+ 25. Ke2 Rd7!! (removing the control of the column d). ] **21... Qe3+ 22.Ne2** [ 22.Be2!? Ne5 23.Qh4 Bd7 ] **22... Ne5 23.Qh4!**



the white want to exchange the injuries to relieve the pressure, of course! Nunn estimates here that the blacks did not prove the correction of their sacrifice. But the white did not prove the opposite either .

**23... Bd7 24.Qd4** [ 24.Qf4 Nc4! 25.Qb8+ 25. Rh1 with compensation, Rittner - Van Osteroom, corr. 1991 25... Kf7 26.Qd8 (26.Rd3 Bb4+ 27.c3 Qxd3 28.Qxa7 Qd2+ 29. Kf2 Ba5 =) 26... Be8 27.Rd3 Qe5~~ ]

**24... Nc4!** a key blow. The continuation is a personal analysis, therefore prone to criticisms and improvements.

**25.Qf6[ ]** [ 25.b3 Qxd4 26.Rxd4 Ne3=/+; 25.Qxe3? Nxe3 26.Kf2=/+ ]

**25... Ne5[ ]** [ 25... Qh6 26.Bc6!! g5 27.Qxh6 Bxh6 28.Rxd7 Rxd7 29.Rf3!+ - ]

**26.Rd2** [ 26.Rd4!? this active blow should be analyzed more closely. 26... Rc7 (26... Bc5 27.Rh4!) 27.Kd1 and only a very thorough analysis could return a verdict on the evaluation of the position. The blacks have however excellent chances of attack. The

taken action pursuant shows how the white position can be degraded. 27... Rc4 28.Rd2 Bh6 29.Rd6 Bg5© 30.Qg7 Kd8! 31.c3 Kc7! 32.Rxd7+ Nxd7 33.Kc2 Qd2+ 34.Kb1 Re4 35.Qxg6 Rxe2 36.Bxe2 Qxe2 37.Rg1 Bf6-/+ ]

**26... Rc7!** [ 26... Bh6 27.Rd4 Rc7 28.Be4 Rc4 (28... Ng4 29.Qxg6+ Ke7 30.Qh7++ -) 29.Qxe5 Rxd4 30.Qxd4+ - ] **27.Kd1 Nc4 28.Qxg6+ Ke7 29.Rd4 Qh6!** [ 29... Nxb2+? 30.Ke1 Rxc2? (30... Nc4 31.Bh5 Ne5 32.Rxd7+!) 31.Qh7+[ ] Kf6 32.Qh4+[ ] Qg5 (32... Kg6 33.Bh5+ Kh7 34.Rxd7+ Bg7 35.Bf7++ -; 32... Ke5 33.Qh8+ Bg7 34.Qxg7 #) 33.Qxg5+ Kxg5 34.Rxd7+ - ]

**30.Qxh6 Bxh6 31.Rxc4** [ 31.Rh4 Nxb2+ 32.Ke1 Be3 ] **31... Rxc4 32.c3** [ 32.b3 Rh4 33.Rh1 Be3 34.g3 Rh8 35.Nc1 e5 = ] **32... e5!**



after this blow it becomes clear that the blacks have compensations sufficient for the pawn. **33.Bd5** [ 33.g3 Be6 ] **33... Rh4 34.h3 Kd6 35.Bb7 a5 36.Ng3 Bf4 37.Ne2 Bh6 = \***

## Analyze blow 11... Bb7

For these reasons, 11... Bb7 proves not easily advisable.

Generally, a player of Najdorf with the white does not venture to play 6. Bg5 that if he knows the theory perfectly, and obviously the theory gives here excellent chances to the white...

Lles lines which will be devoted there here will more work towards an end documentary and diverting that a concern of exhaustiveness. It would be indeed a shame to occult splendid combinations and some of the most complex positions of the theory of the openings.

The sacrifice of immediate knight **12. Nxe6** is also possible but according to the theory it does not give better than the null one.

(12.Nxe6?! fxe6 13.Qh5+ (13.Qg4 Qxe5 (13... Nc5!? 14.Rd8+ Qxd8 15.Bxd8 Kxd8 16.b4 Ncd7 ~ ~; 13... Qb6? 14.Rd6! Bxd6 15.Qxe6+ Kf8 16.Bc4! bxc4 17.Rf1+ Nf6 18.Rxf6+! gxf6 19.Bh6 # is a splendid miniature played by Tal in the USSR about 1963, but I am unaware of if it is the product of a sudden inspiration or the recitation of a preexistent analysis.) 14.Bd3 Be7 15.Bxe7 Kxe7 16.Rhe1 h5! 17.Qb4+ Qc5 18.Qh4+ Nf6 ~ ~



according to Nunn, the white must fight seriously to justify their sacrifice of part now.) 13... g6 14.Qg4 Qxe5 (14... Nc5!? 15.Rd8+ Qxd8 16.Bxd8 Kxd8 and the addition of the blow g6 is favorable to the blacks.) 15.Bd3 Nc5 16.Bxg6+ (16.Bxb5+ Nc6!) 16... hxg6 17.Rd8+ Kf7 18.Rf1+ Kg7 19.Bf6+ Qxf6 20.Rxf6 Kxf6 21.Qf4+ Ke7 22.Qd6+ Kf7 23.Qc7+ Nbd7!? Fritz. Of course the blacks can accept the null one by perpetual. 24.Rxd7+ Kg8)

**12. Qg4** is undoubtedly the best blow, maintaining the pressure and preparing this same sacrifice under excellent conditions.



12... Qb6 and 12... Qxe5

**12...Qb6** is a more passive defense of e6 which vraisemblément does not hold the shock of the white pressure. (12... Qb6 13.Be2! h6 (13... Nxe5 14.Qh3! probably transpose) 14.Qh3! Nxe5 15.Rhe1 Nbd7 16.Bh4 g5!? (16... g6 17.Bg4! h5 18.Bxe6 Bh6 +! 19.Kb1 fxe6 20.Nxe6 Kf7! 21.Rxd7+! Nxd7 22.Nf4! and the white are definitely better according to Nunn.) 17.Nxe6!! (17.Bxg5 Rg8! 18.Nxe6 hxg5 19.Bh5 Kavalek - Polougaïevski, Manila cigar 1975. 19... g4! and the blacks push back the attack, for example: 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.Qh7+ Rg7!) 17... fxe6 (17... gxh4 18.Bh5 Bd6 19.Qf5 with a strong attack.) 18.Bf2!!



Barczay. The black injury is finally canted shamefully by this brilliance blow from bishop 18... Qxf2 (18... Qc6 19.Bf3; 18... Bc5 19.Bxc5 Nxc5 20.Bh5+ Nf7 21.b4 0-0 22.Bxf7+ Rxf7 23.Qxh6+ -) 19.Qxe6+ Kd8 20.Bxb5! the black position flies in glares. 20... Qxe1 (20... axb5 21.Rxe5 Bc8 22.Nxb5 Bb4 23.Red5+ -) 21.Rxe1 axb5 22.Rxe5 Nxe5 23. Qxe5 Rg8 24.Qf6+ Kd7 25.Qf5++ -)

**12... Qxe5!?** the most aggressive blow and implying enormous risks because this blow

opens the column E for the white towers, but there is not an other continuation.

The white have three blows of bishop possible to continue their development: 13. Be2, 13. Bd3 and 13. Bxb5. The sacrifice of bishop is premature and does not give better than the null one, the blacks have even sometimes good against-chances, Be2 is more positional (if one can say in such an variation...), limiting the material investments, and Bd3 starts a tactical apocalypse.

**a) 13.Bxb5?!** axb5 Polougaievski magnificiently described the reasons of this kind of sacrifice in b5: "a tempo is worth more than one bishop." The sicilian spirit is not far.

**(a)**

14.Ncxb5 f5! 15.Qh3 Kf7 and the vice around the black king is loosened.

(14... h5? 15.Nc7+! Qxc7 16.Nxe6! Qe5 17.Nc7+! three consecutive sacrifices of knight! 17... Qxc7 18.Qe2+ Ne5 19.Qxe5++ -)

14.Rhe1 h5!! the only blow, moved by only one objective: to drive out the injury of the attack of e6. 15.Qh4 Qc5!

16.Ndxb5 Na6 17.Qf4 Bc6 18.b4 Qxb4 19.Rd4 Qc5!

16.Ncxb5 Rxa2! 17.Kb1 Bd5! 18.Re3 Qb6 19.Nxe6 Bxe6 (19... Rxb2+!?) 20.Qc4 Bc5 (20... Rxb2+! 21.Kxb2 Bc5 22.Rd6 0-0 23.Rexe6 Qb7 seems best for the blacks. 24.Be3 Bxd6 25.Rxd6 Ne5 26.Qe2 Nbd7 27.Bd4 with a rather confused situation even if the white king is more exposed than his black counterpart.) 21. Rxe6+ fxe6 22.Nd6+ followed perpetual failure. Analyze of Holger Daum on Ukrainian Online Chess School <http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/hdaum.htm>, but any engine of analysis finds these lines very quickly;

**b) 13.Be2!** the white restrict the investment materials at least. 13... Bc5 and the white have crowd of dangerous possibilities as 14. Nf3!? or 14. Rhf1.

14.Rhf1 Bxd4 15.Rxd4+/=

14.Nf3 h5 15.Qh4 Be3+ 16.Kb1 Bxf3 17.Bxe3 Bxe2 18.Bd4 Qf5 19.Nxe2 0-0 20.h3 e5 21.Bc3+/-;

**c) 13.Bd3!?**



At present 13... Nf6 and 13... h6!!

13... Nf6?! 14.Bxf6! Toukmakov 14... gxf6 (14... Qxf6 15.Rhe1 aiming e6 in a decisive way. An example: 15... h5 16.Nxe6! Be7 on hxg4 the answer had been the same one as in the part. 17.Bxb5+! axb5? (17... Nc6) 18.Nc7+ Kf8 19.Rd8+! Bxd8 20.Re8 # played by Tal in simultaneous in England, 1974.) 15.Bf5!! h5 16.Qh3 Bc5 17.Rhe1 Qf4+ 18.Kb1 Bxd4 19.Bxe6! Bxc3 20.bxc3 0-0 Toukmakov - Anikayev, Kiev 1969, and now: 21.Bxf7+! Rxf7 22.Re8+ Kg7 23.Rdd8 Kg6 (23... b4 24.Qxh5 Qf1+ 25.Rd1 Qb5 26.Qh8+ Kg6 27.Rg8+ Kf5 28.Qh3+ followed of a checkmate in Sept.; 23... Kh6 24.Rh8+ Rh7 25.Rxh7+ Kxh7 26.Qxh5+ Kg7 27.Qh8+ Kg6 28.Rg8+ Kf5 29.Qh7+ and the white capture the bishop one and the tower without the blacks being able to make large-thing.) 24.Qd3+ f5 25.g3



with a very dangerous attack in spite of the two parts of less.)

**13... h6!** Planinc. Hunting for bishop is the only way of emerging. **14.Bh4 g5!**

(15.Bg3 Qe3+ 16.Kb1 h5 17.Rhe1 Qxe1 (17... hxg4! the surest blow. 18.Rxe3 Nc5

19.Ncxb5 axb5 20.Bxb5+ Nbd7 21.b4 0-0-0 22.bxc5 (22.Rc3 Bxg2 ~ ~) 22... Nxc5 ~ ~ Nunn) 18.Qxg5 Bh6 19.Qxh5 (19.Qh4! is probably stronger, because the injury is found placed better.) 19... Qe3 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Re1 Qxe1+ 22.Bxe1 Bg7 23.Qg4 Kf8 ~ ~



What can one say of other? This judgement of Lapalisse east of Boleslavsky, Kapengut and Polougaïevski. The white maintain nevertheless a certain initiative. 24.Nxb5 Rxh2 Fritz (24... axb5 25.Bb4+ Kg8 26.Bc3 f6 27.Qe6+ Kf8 28.Bb4+ Nc5 29.Bxc5 #))

**15.Nxe6! h5!!**



the only blow! The blacks cannot of course capture any the parts offered, because of Rhe1. 16.Qh3! (16.Qxg5 Bh6 17.Rhe1 fxe6 18.Bg6+ Kf8 19.Rf1+ Qf6!!





blow discovered by Boleslavsky and Kapengut, of a rare beauty, it gives the advantage to the blacks. 20.Rxf6+ Nxf6 21.Rf1! (21.Rd8+ Kg7 22.Rxh8 Bxg5+ 23.Bxg5 Kxg6-+) 21... Nbd7 22.Be4=/+ ) 16... Bh6! 17.Kb1 (17.Nxg5!? Nunn 17... Bxg5+ 18.Kb1 Bxh4 19.Qxh4 Qf6 20.Rhe1+ Kf8 21.Qb4+ Kg7 22.Ne4+/=) 17... g4 18.Nc7+! Qxc7 19.Rhe1 + Kf8 20.Be7+ Kg8 21.Qxh5 Bg7 22.Qg5 Nc6 (22... Rh6 23.Bf5!) 23.Bf5!



even if the blacks find an antidote, 23. Bd6 is also good 23... Nce5 24.Bd6 Qd8 (24... Qb6 25.Rxe5 Nxe5 26.Bxe5 f6 27.Oxg4+ -) 25.Qxd8+ Rxd8 26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Rxe5 Nxe5 28.Rxd8+ Kg7 29.Rxh8 Kxh8+/- ]

### Analyze blows 17... e5 and 17... h5

**17... e5?!** an idea not tested which attracts the computers but extremely doubtful in truth. 18.Qh4! (18.Qd5 Bb4 this variation is probably ok for the blacks.) 18... g6 19.Nd5 +/- and the position of the blacks is pitiful even if the generated tactical complications will be considerable;

**17... h5?!** The defense worked out by Polougaievski, which unfortunately did not resist the analysis. Nevertheless Fritz found resources interesting in this difficult line.

18.a4!? Lepeshkin. If ever the principal line knows concern, this variation gives to the white a better play with few concern. 18... Nc6 19.Qh4 Qe5 20.axb5 axb5 21.Nxb5 Rb7 (21... Rd7 22.Qc4+/= Nunn) 22.Qc4! Bd7 23.Rxd7 Kxd7 24.Nf7+ - Rodriguez-vera, Havana 1982)

18.Rxf5!! this brilliance sacrifice of turn is the work of Tal. It is a question of opening the lines around the black king and of giving the square d5 to the knight c3.

18... exf5 19.Nd5....

19... Qa5+ 20.Kf1 Nc6 21.Nf6+ gxf6 22.Qxf6 Rg7 23.Qxc6+ Bd7 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Qg6+ Kd8 (25... Ke7 26.Qe6+ Kd8 27.Qf6+) 26.Qf6+ Kc8 27.Qxh8 Qd8 28.Qxh5 +/=

19... Qd7 left Tal - Polougaievski, Alma-ATA, 1/4 finale of the candidates 1980 (4). 20.Rd3!!



Taulbut. The arrival of the tower in e3 creates enormous defensive problems for the blacks.

**20... Nc6!** undoubtedly the best blow, voted by plebiscite by the computers. Polougaievski mentions only Rh6 and Be7 which are definitely insufficient. **21.Re3+ Ne7 22.Nf6+!** this sacrifice of part after the tower gives an attack gaining to the white according to Nunn, but within sight of the defenses suggested by the engines of analysis, the situation seems far from being perfectly clear. I must alas cut here kilometers of justifying analyses and a myriad of interesting variations. **22... gxf6 23. Qxf6 f4!!** the defense of Fritz. The blacks now have the possibility of playing Qf5 with tempo.

(23... Rg8 the traditional illustrative line, where the black parts are found unnecessarily bound with the black king. 24.Bxh5+ Kd8 25.Qb6+ Rc7 (25... Qc7 26.Qd4+! Bd7 27.Ne6 + Kc8 28.Nxc7 Rxc7 29.Rxe7! Bxe7 30.Qd5! Rxc2 31.Qxg8+ Kc7+ -) 26.Nf7+ (26.Ne6 + Qxe6 27.Rxe6 Bxe6 28.Qxe6 Rc6) 26... Ke8 27.Ne5+ Kd8 28.Nxd7 Bxd7 29.Qxa6 Bg7 30.Bf7 Rh8 (30... Rf8 31.Be6 Rf6 32.Qa8+ Nc8 33.Bxd7 Kxd7 34.c3+/-) 31.Qd6 Nc6 32.c3 Rf8+/-)

**24.Re5!** preventing Qf5, a resource which functions well in the majority of the other variations. **24... Qd4!!** perhaps this extraordinary blow (and masochist) represent the best chance of the blacks. **25.Rxe7+**

(25.Qxh8 Qg1+ 26.Bf1 Qxh2! 27.Ne4 Qh4+ 28.Kd2 f3 29.g3 Qh2+ 30.Kc1 Rc7 31.c3 Rc6 32.Nf6+ Rxf6 33.Qxf6 Qxg3-/+ ) **25... Rxe7 26.Qxd4 Bg7**



and the position deserves to be analyzed carefully, because it does not even appear clear to to me that the white have an exploitable advantage. ]

## Opening: B96 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation, Polugaievsky line

The super-acute Polugaievsky variation in the Sicilian Najdorf nowadays is not very practiced, although periodically analyses in some books, magazines and Web sites are published. One of the main books in which it is analyzed this line is the one of John titled Nunn "The Complete Najdorf: 6, Bg5" of the Batsford Publishing house. ***As it can be seen next, the main line indicated by Nunn is erroneous, and to thus it has indicated to Holger Daum in Chess Sector it. But as well, también Holger Daum omits a clear line in which posición with advantage of the blacks is arrived at one.*** Let us see:

### **Sicilian Najdorf - Polugaevsky Variation [ B96 ] 2000 [ Juan S. Morgado ]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.Qe2 Nfd7 11.0-0-0 Bb7 12.Qg4 Qxe5**

[ 12... Qb6 ]

**13.Bxb5 axb5 14.Rhe1 h5**

Played Unica

**15.Qh4 Qc5 16.Ncxb5**

[ 16.Qg3 and; 16.Ndxb5 is alternative important that they the future deserve another note in. ]

**16... Rxa2**

recommendation of Polugaievsky

**17.Kb1 Bd5**

[ Is interesting also 17... Ra5 18.Qf4 Rxb5 19.Nxb5 f6÷ (19... Na6? 20.Rxd7 Kxd7 21.Qxf7+ 1-0 Privara, I-Ptak, P/Cihak 1969/EXT 99, and 1-0 Veljkovic, M-Sahovic, D/ Yugoslavia 1973 ) ] **18.Re3** [ Or 18.Rd3 Qb6 19.Nxe6 Bxe6 20.Qc4 Ra1+ 21.Kxa1 Qa5 +-+ Nunn 236 page ]

**18... Qb6 19.Nxe6 Bxe6**

[ If 19... Rxb2+ 20.Kxb2 Qxb5+ 21.Rb3 Qxb3+ 22.cxb3 fxe6 is not clear according to Polugaevsky and Nunn ]

### 20.Qc4

And now the correct play is

### 20... Rxb2+!N



[ But not 20... Bc5! Polugaievsky and Nunn place a sign to him, but this is erroneous. 21.Rxe6+! ]



(21.Rd6? 0-0 22.Rexe6 Qa5 23.Qxa2 Qxb5-+ This is the main line that indicates Nunn. (John Nunn: The Complete Najdorf: 6, Bg5 page 236). As it is seen, erroneous. ) 21... fxe6 22.Nd6+ Kf8 (22... Bxd6 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.Rf1+ Nf6 25.Rxf6+ gxf6 26.Qxf6+ = perpetual check )

**A)** 23.Qxa2!

**A1)** 23... Qa6 24.Qxe6 Bxd6 25.Qf5+ (25.Rxd6 Qf1+ 26.Ka2 Qf7+ -) 25... Kg8 26.Qe6 + Kf8 27.Qf5+ = Analysis of Holger Daum in Chess Sector;

**A2)** 23... Bd4 24.Rxd4!+ -;

**A3)** 23... Bxd6 24.Qxe6

**Aa)** 24... Qf2 25.Re1! (25.Qxd6+ Kg8 26.Qd5+ Qf7 27.Qe4) 25... Qf7 (25... Qxe1+) 26. Qxd6+ Kg8 27.Re7 Qf1+ 28.Bc1! Qf5 29.b3;

**A3b)** 24... Bc7 25.Qe7+ Kg8 26.Qe8+ Nf8 27.Rf1 Nbd7 28.Qf7+ Kh7 29.Qxh5+ Kg8 30. Qf7+ = "y this also is perpetual check, and for that reason the affirmation of Nunn after 20.Bc5 must be cambiada" according to correctly says to Holger Daum in Chess Sector;

**B)** 23.Rf1+! This is the play that does not consider Holger Daum in its analyses. 23... Kg8 (23... Nf6 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Rxf6+ Kg7 26.Rg6+ Kxg6 27.Qxe6+ =) 24.Qxe6+ Kh7 25.Qf5+ = ]

**21.Kxb2 Bc5 22.Rd6 0-0 23.Rexe6 Qb7 24.Be3**

[ 24.Rg6? Rc8 25.Qb3 Bxd6 26.Rxd6 Rc5 0-1 Down, N-Chaplin, D/corr. 1984 (26) ]

**24... Bxd6 25.Rxd6 Ne5** with black initiative [ Also deserves consideration 25... Qxg2 ' ] \*

## Opening: B96 - Sicilian Defense Polugaievsky variation

### Introduction:

The Polugaievsky variation of the Sicilian Defense has been analyzed extensively by a numerous amount of Great Teachers of the highest level. Nowadays one gambles little, by a question of fashions. It is necessary to have much taken care of with the variations that mention books and encyclopedias. The positions are very very complex, and must be reviewed carefully to avoid disagreeable surprises. The Brazilian analyst Luiz gives to Junior Coast has sent us like newness the play 19. Nfg5, but... already he had been played before, between Dimitrov versus Vasilev, Pravec (Bulgaria) 1988! That game had remained "escondida" in the data bases, and there we found it. Anyway, we offer the analyses of Gives Junior Coast, that are interesting.

### Analysis [ B96 ]

01.12.1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.exf6 Qe5+ 11.Be2 Qxg5 12,0-0 Ra7 13.Qd3 Rd7 14.Ne4 Qe5 15.Nf3 Qxb2 16.Qe3 Bb7 17.a4 b4 18.Rab1 Qxc2 19.Nfg5!!±



This play is indicated us by Luiz Da Junior Coast, but... it had been played already

before, in 1988! [ Peculiarly, only 19.Rxb4 is what they indicate ECHO B, Third Edition, 1997. and the Russian Encyclopedia Modern Chess Opening Tomo II, 1996. That is to say, both manual main! 19... Bxb4 20.fxg7 Rg8 21.Nf6+ Kd8 22.Qb6+ Kc8 23.Qxb4 Rxc7 24.Qf8+ Rd8 25.Qxc7 Qxe2 26.Qxf7 Bxf3! (26... Qe3+? 27.Kh1 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Nc6 29.Ne4 e5 30.Qc4 1-0 Rolph, M-Hucks, L/IECG Cat-A 1995 (30) ) 27.gxf3 Rd1 28.Qg8+ Kc7! 29.Qxh7+ (29.Ne8+ Kb6 30.Qg2 =) 29... Nd7 30.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 31.Kg2 Qe2+ 32.Kg1 = ]

**19... Qc7** the following analyses are of gives Junior Coast. The readers can review them more thoroughly. [ 19... Nc6 20.Rbd1!±; 19... Qxa4 20.Qg3 ' Nc6 21.fxg7 Bxc7 22.Nxf7!+ -; 19... h6 20.Rfc1 Qa2 21.Bc4 Qxa4 (21... Qa3 22.Rb3) 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.f7+ Rxf7 24.Nd6+ Bxd6 25.Qxe6+; 19... g6 20.Rfc1 Qa2 21.Bc4 Qxa4 (21... Qa3 22.Rb3) 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.f7+ Rxf7 24.Nd6+ Bxd6 25.Qxe6+; 19... Qc6 20.Rbc1! Qd5 21.Rcd1! Qc6 (21... Qe5 22.fxg7 Bxc7 23.Rxd7 Nxd7 24.Nxf7) 22.Qa7! Qc7 (22... Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Nd7 24.fxg7 Bxc7 25.Nd6+ Ke7 26.Nxb7) 23.Rxd7 Nxd7 24.fxg7 Bxc7 25.Qxb7 Bd4+ 26.Kh1 Qxb7 27.Nd6+ Ke7 28.Nxb7±; 19... Bxe4 20.Nxe4

**A)** 20... Qc6 21.Rbc1! Qb7 (21... Qd5 22.Rfd1 Qb7 23.Rxd7 Nxd7 24.fxg7+ -) ;  
**B)** 20... Qc8 21.Rbc1 unique Qd8m 22.Ng5 g6 (22... gxf6 23.Nxe6 Re7 24.Rxf6+ -) 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Qxe6+ Be7 25.Rfd1+ -;  
**C)** 20... g6 21.Rbc1 Bh6 22.Qxh6 Qxe4 23.Qg7 Qd4+ 24.Kh1 Rf8 25.Rfd1+ -;  
**D)** 20... Qxa4 21.Qg3 b3 22.Qxb8+ Rd8 23.Qb7 Rd7 24.Qxa6 Qxa6 25.Bxa6+ -;  
**E)** 20... Qc7 21.Rxb4! Bxb4 22.fxg7 Rg8 23.Nf6+ Kd8 24.Nxc8 Bc5 25.Nf6 Bxe3+ 26.Kh1 Ke7 27.g8Q! Qd8 28.Qg3! Bd4 29.Nxd7 Nxd7 30.Bxa6+ - ] Gives Junior Coast

## **20.Rbd1 Bxe4**

[ 20... Qe5 21.fxg7 Bxc7 22.Rxd7 Nxd7 23.Nxf7+ -; 20... Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Bxe4 22.Nxe4 g6 23.Rc1 Qb7 (23... Qd8 24.Qa7) 24.Bf3 Qd7 25.Qb6+ - ]

## **21.Nxe4 Qa7 22.Qxa7 Rxa7 23.fxg7 Bxc7 24.Nd6+ Kf8 25.Bh5 f5 26.Nc8 Nc6**

[ 26... Rd7 27.Rxd7 Nxd7 28.Rd1±; 26... Bh6 27.Nxa7 Be3+ 28.Kh1 Bxa7 29.Rf4 a5 30.Rc4 Kg7 31.Rc7+ Kh6 32.Rxa7 Kxh5 33.Rxa5+ - ]

## **27.Nxa7 Nxa7 28.Rd7 Nc6 29.Rf7+ Kg8 30.Rc7 Nd4 31.Rb7 Bh6 32.Re1 Bd2 33.Re5 1-0**

The game where this gambled is Dimitrov, V-Vasilev Nikolai/Pravec (Bulgaria) 1988 (33)





Bryson-J.Zoltai:

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 b5 8 e5 dxe5 9 fxe5 Qc7 10 Qe2 Nfd7 11 O-O-O Bb7 12 Qg4 Qxe5 13 Be2! Bc5 14 Nf3



Stein's move: with 13 Be2, unlike some violent attempts to overthrow the Polugaevsky, White gives up only a pawn for which he evidently receives good compensation. This is good CC: find the most precise sequence of moves to induce an error and then drive home the advantage. Black tries the reply recommended by Polugaevsky himself:

14...h5!? 15 Qh4 Be3+ 16 Kb1 Bxf3 17 Bxe3 Bxe2 18 Bd4 Bxd1



In an earlier game played OTB, 18...Qf5 proved insufficient: 19 Nxe2 O-O 20 h3 e5 21 Bc3 Nc6?! 22 Rd6 b4 23 Ng3 Qf4 24 Qxf4 exf4 25 Bxg7! (Bryson-Gallagher, Nottingham 1987).

19 Bxe5 Bxc2+ 20 Kxc2 Nxe5 21 Qg5 Nbc6 22 Ne4 Nd4+ 23 Kb1 Nf5 24 Rd1 Ng6 25 Nd6+ Nxd6 26 Rxd6 O-O 27 Qxh5 Rfd8 28 Qf3 Rxd6 29 Qxa8+ Kh7 30 Qb8 Rc6 31 h4 f6 32 g4 Ne5



(32...Nxb4 33 Qe8 Rc5 34 Qxe6)

**33 g5 Kg6 34 Qe8+ Kf5 35 Qf8! Nf3 36 a3 a5 37 Qxg7 fxg5 38 h5 Nd2+ 39 Ka2 b4 40 axb4 axb4 41 Qg6+ Kf4 42 b3 Ne4 43 Kb2 Ke3 44 h6 Kd3 45 Kb1 Rc8 46 Qh7!!**



(Not 46 h7? Rf8!= as Bryson points out.)

**46...Rf8 47 Qd7+ Ke3 48 Qa7+ Kd3 49 Qa6+ Kd2 50 h7 Nc3+ 51 Kb2 Nd1+ 52 Ka1 Rh8 53 Qb7! Nc3 54 Qg2+ Kc1 55 Qxg5+ Black resigned.**



While this policy is characteristic of ambitious young players who enjoy theory battles in their OTB games too, it may also be adopted by players whose library/database is one of their main weapons.

## Gothenburg Variation

Opening: B98 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation (Gotemburgo)

Under the pretencioso title of *"the definitive rebuttal of the Gotemburgo variation of the Sicilian Najdorf B98"* the Canadian tele-chess player Dale Kirton published an interesting article, gathered soon by the GM Kevin Spragget, to which we will talk about in this note. We talked about the line that became famous in Interzonal de Gotemburgo 1955, where three Soviets defeated three Argentinians. Much water has run under the bridge since then, gambling tens of games, in which the balance inclined alternatively from a side to another one. ***Kirton found what a rebuttal to the line considers that is born of the play 11.Nxe6.*** The present state of the theory indicates that this play is good only for tables. One first approach to the variation already had been published by the own Kirton in the New magazine In Chess algunos years ago. Also the Brazilian Luiz Da Junior Coast has carried out interesting analyses, just like Italian S.Curtacci, Loving GM Rodriguez, and others. All of them are mentioned in each case. (If it is not indicated, is a line indicated by Dale Kirton). ***Our conclusion is that after the play 21... Ne7? the white advantage is not so determining, or it must at least still be investigated.***

**(1) Kirton, D (2250) - People, K (2380) [ B98 ]**

**Gothenburg Variation Match game # 2, 1999**

**[ Juan S. Morgado (s/análisis of D.Kirton, L.da Coast and others) ]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6  
9.Bh4 g5**

This is the variation call Gotemburgo, play in three games in round 14 of Interzonal de Gotemburgo 1955 by three Argentine players against Soviet opponents. (Spassky-Pilnik, Geller-Panno, and Keres-Najdorf).

**10.fxg5 Nfd7 11.Nxe6! fxe6**

[ 11... Qb6 12.Nd5 Qa5+ 13.b4 Ne5 14.Qc3+ - Francisco Trois-F. Towns, Brazil, 1969]

**12.Qh5+ Kf8 13.Bb5**

Kirton indicates that historically Geller has the credit of to have been first in making this play.



[ RR13.Be2! Ne5 14.0-0+? Kg7 15.Bg3 better Nbc6 the blacks ]

### 13... Rh7

Also Kirton mentions that this play was discovered by Keres, and that Bobby Fischer used it to obtain the title of GM against Gligoric, in Portoroz 1958. [ 13... Ne5

**A)** 14.0-0+? 15.Bg3 Ng6 is indicated by L. Da Coast Junior 14... Kg7 (15... hxg5 was described by S.Curtacci as  $\mu$  but after 16.Bxe5+ Bf6 17.Qxg5+ Kf8 18.Rxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qxf6+ Kg8 20.Qg7 #) 16.gxh6+ Rxh6 17.Rf7+ Kxf7 18.Qxh6 axb5 19.Rf1+ Ke8 20.Qxg6+ Kd7 21.e5 d5 22.Qg4 the white have some compensation;

**B)** 14.Bg3

**B1)** 14... Bxg5 15,0-0+ (15.Bxe5? 16,0-0+ Bf6 was analyzed by *Coast Junior* 15... dxe5 17.Qg6±) 15... Ke7 16.Bxe5 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 dxe5 18.Qf7+ Kd6 19.Rad1+ Qd4 20.Rxd4+ exd4 21.e5+ Kc5 22.Qc7+ Nc6 23.Bxc6 This is the game that followed the way of the mentioned Efim Geller versus Oscar Panno izt, 1955.;

**B2)** RR14... axb5 15.Bxe5 dxe5 16,0-0++ - Curtacci;

**B3)** 14... Kg7 15.Bxe5+ dxe5 16,0-0 Qg8 17.Be8!

**Bá)** 17... Qxe8 *Junior Coast* 18.gxh6++ -;

**B3b)** 17... Rh7 18.gxh6+! (18.Rf7+ *Coast Junior* 18... Kh8 19.Rxh7+ Qxh7 20.Bg6 Qg7 21.Rf1+ -) 18... Rxh6 (18... Kh8 19.Qxe5+ Rg7 20.Rf7 Bc5+ 21.Kh1 Bf8 22.Raf1 Nd7 23.Bxd7 Bxd7 24.R1f3 Kh7 25.hxg7 Qxg7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Rxg7+ Bxg7 28.Qf7+ Kh8 29.Rh3+ Bh6 30.Rxh6 #) 19.Rf7+ Qxf7 20.Qxf7+ Kh8 21.Qxe7+ -; B3c) 17... Bc5+ 18. Kh1 Qxe8 19.gxh6+ Kh7 20.Rf7++ -;

**B4)** 14... Rh7 15.Bxe5 dxe5 16.Rd1 takes to two possibilities (RR16.Rf1+ Kg8 17.Rd1 Nd7 18.Qg6+ Kh8 19.Bxd7 Bxd7 20.gxh6 Qe8 21.Qg3 Qh5 22.Qe3 Bc6 23.Ne2 Qxh6 24. Qc3 Qxh2 25.g3 Qh5 26.Nf4 Bb4 27.Qxb4 exf4 28.Rxf4 Qh1+ 29.Kd2 Rh2+ 30.Ke3 Qxd1-+ *Davies-Davies-De Ruiten, Guernsey (op) 1988* )

**Bâ)** 16... Nd7 17.Qg6

**Bâ1)** 17... Rg7

**Bâ11)** 18,0-0+ Junior Coast

**Bâ111)** 18... Bf6

**Bâ1111)** 19.Rxf6+ Qxf6 (19... Nxf6 20.Rxd8+ Ke7 21.Qxf6 #) 20.Qxf6+ Nxf6 21.gxf6 Rc7±;

**Bâ1112)** 19.Qxh6 19... Qb6+ 20.Kh1 Kg8 21.gxf6 Nxf6 22.Qxf6+ -;

**Bâ112)** 18... Kg8 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 (19... Kh7 20.Qxh6+ Kg8 21.Bc4++ -) 20.gxh6±;

**Bâ12)** 18.Rf1+! 18... Kg8 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.Bxd7 Bxg5 21.Qxe5 (21.Bxc8 Qxc8 22.Qxe5±) 21... Qe7 22.Qxe7 Bxe7 23.g3 Bb4 24.Bf5 Bxf5 25.Rxf5 Bxc3+ 26.bxc3+ -;

**Bâ2)** 17... Rf7 18.Qxh6+ Kg8 19.g6 Rg7 20.Bc4 Qb6

**Bâ21)** 21.Nd5 Qc5 (RR21... Qd8 22.Nc7+ - Curtacci ; RR21... exd5? 22.Bxd5+ Kf8 23.Qh8++ - Curtacci ) 22.Ne3 **Bâ211)** RR22... Nf8 23.0-0

**Bâ2111)** 23... Qc7 24.Nd5! exd5 25.Rxf8++ -;

**Bâ2112)** 23... b5 24.Bb3 Nxc6 (24... Bb7 25.Rxf8+ Kxf8 26.Qh8+ Rg8 27.Rf1+ Ke8 28.Qxg8++ -; 24... Ra7 25.Kh1 Nxc6 26.Nf5 Bf8 27.Nxc7 Rxc7 28.Rf6 Nh8 29.Qh5 Nf7 30.Rdf1 Qe7 31.Qf3+ -) 25.Kh1+ -;

**Bâ2113)** 23... Nxc6 24.Kh1! Nf4 25.Rxf4 exf4 26.Nf5 Qe5 (26... Bf8 27.Rd8 Kf7 28.Qxf4 Kg6 29.Nh4+ Kh7 30.e5 Kg8 31.Nf5 Kf7 32.Nd6++ -) 27.Nxe7+ Rxe7 28.Rd8++ -;

**Bâ212)** 22... Qc6 23.Rd6 Bxd6 (RR23... Qxd6 24.Nf5 Qb4+ 25.c3+ -) 24.Bxe6+ Kf8 25.Qh8+ Ke7

**Bâ2121)** 26.Nf5+! Kxe6 takes to kills forced 26... 27.Nxc7+ Ke7 (27... Kf6 28,0-0+ Kxc6 29.Qh5+ Kxc7 30.Rf7+ Kg8 31.Qh7 #) 28.Qe8+ Kf6 29.Qf7+ Kg5 30.Ne6+ Kh5 31.Qh7+ Kg4 32.Qh3 #;

**Bâ2122)** 26.Nd5++ - 1-0 Ninov-Spasov, cr BG CH, 1989;

**Bâ22)** 21.Rd3 21... Nf8 22.Rg3 Qd4 (22... Bd7 23.Rf1 Be8 24.Rf7+ -) 23.Rf1 Qxc4 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 (24... Bxf8 25.Rh3+ -) 25.Qh8+ Rg8 26.Rf3+ Ke8 27.Qxg8+ Kd7 28.g7+ - J. Adams;;

**B4b)** 16... Qc7? 17,0-0+ Kg7 18.Qf7+ Kh8 19.Qe8+ Kg7 20.Rf7+ Kg6 21.Rxh7+ Kxc6 22.Qg8+ Kh5 23.Be2+ Kh4 24.Qg3 #;

**B4c)** 16... Bd7

**B4c1)** 17.g6 Not it better, but the only one considered by theory (Kirton) 17... Rg7 18,0-0+ Kg8 19.Bc4 Qc8 (19... Qe8 20.Nd5 Bc5+ 21.Kh1 exd5 22.Bxd5+ Be6 23.Bxe6 + Qxe6 24.Rd8++ -) 20.Bb3

**B4c11)** 20... Be8 21.Nd5 Qc5+ (21... Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Rxc6 23.Rf6± Blatny-Minic, Sombor 1966 ) 22.Kh1 Bxc6 23.Qxe5; **B4c12)** 20... Nc6 21.Rf7 Nd8 22.Rxc7+ Kxc7 23.Qxe5+ Kxc6 24.Qg3+ Kh7 Is here where the theory leaves the line 13... Ne5 So that I had to find an improvement (Kirton);

**B4c2)** 17.Bxd7! There am the antidote 17... Nxd7 here 18.Qg6 Rf7 19.Qxh6+ Kg8 20.Qg6+ Kf8 21.Rf1 Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1

**B4c21)** 22... Bc5 23.Rd3 Ke7 (23... Qc7 24.Qxe6 Nb6 25.Rf3+ Kg7 26.Qf6+ Kg8 27.Qg6+ Qg7 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Rh3+ Qh7 30.Rxh7+ Kxh7 31.Qf7+ Kh8 32.g6 Rf8 33.g7+ Kh7 34.gxf8Q #) 24.Qg7+ Ke8 25.Rf3 Qc8 (25... Qe7 26.Qg8+ Nf8 27.g6 Qg5 28.Qf7+ Kd8 29.Rd3+ Kc8 30.g7+ -) 26.Qf7+ Kd8 27.g6 Kc7 28.Qxe6 Bf8 (28... Kb8 29.Rf7 Nb6 30.Qxc8+ Nxc8 31.g7+ -; 28... Qe8 29.Nd5+ Kd8 30.Qxe8+ Kxe8 31.g7+ -; 28... Qh8 29.Nd5+ Kd8 30.Rf7 Nf8 31.Qf5!+ -) 29.Nd5+ Kb8 30.Qxd7!+ -;

**B4c22)** 22... Bxg5 23.Qh7

**B4c221)** 23... Be7

**B4c2211)** 24.Rxd7! Qxd7 25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.Qxa8 Qd2 27.Qxb7 Qf4+ (27... Qc1+ 28. Kf2 Qxc2+ 29.Ne2 Kf6 30.Qb3+ -) 28.Ke2 Qxh2 29.Qa7 Qh5+ 30.Kd3+ -;

**B4c2212)** 24.Rd3? 24... Qe8 25.Rf3+? (25.Rxd7) 25... Nf6 (25... Bf6 26.g4 Qf7 27. Qxf7+ Kxf7 28.g5 Rh8 29.h3 Kg6 30.gxf6±) 26.g4 Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7 28.g5 Rh8 29. gxf6 Bxf6 30.h3±;

**B4c222)** 23... Qf6+ 24.Ke2 Nc5 (24... Nb6 25.Qxb7 Qh6 26.Qxb6+ -) 25.b4+ -; 13... Kg7? 14,0-0 Ne5 (14... Qe8 15.gxh6++ -; RR14... Qg8 15.g6 Bxh4 16.Bxd7 Nxd7 17. Qxh4 Qd8 18.Rf7+ Kxg6 19.Re7± Nunn/Stein ) 15.Bg3 Ng6 16.gxh6+ Rxh6 17.Rf7+ Kxf7 18.Qxh6

**A)** 18... Qh8 Junior Coast 19.Rf1+ Bf6 20.Be8+! Ke7 (20... Qxe8 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Rxf6 + Qf7 23.Qxf7 #; 20... Kxe8 21.Qxg6+ Ke7 22.Rxf6!+ -) 21.Qxg6 Nd7 22.Qf7+ Kd8 23. Bxd6;

**B)** 18... axb5 19.Rf1+ Ke8 20.Qxg6+ Kd7 21.Rf7

**B1)** RR21... Kc6 22.Qh7 Bg5 (22... b4 23.Nd5 exd5 24.Rxe7 d4 25.Qf7 Ra6 26.Re8+ -) 23.e5 d5 (23... dxe5 24.Bf2 ... Qe4 ) 24.Qd3 Qa5 25.Nxd5 exd5 26.Qg6++ - Curtacci;

**B2)** 21... Nc6 22.Nd5

**Ba)** 22... exd5 23.Qxd6+ Ke8 24.Qg6! Kd7 (RR24... Qb6+ 25.Bf2 ... ed5 Curtacci ) 25. exd5 Rxa2 26.dxc6+ (RR26.Qf5+ Ke8 27.Rf8+ Bxf8 28.Qg6+ Ke7 29.Bh4+ Kd7 30.dxc6 + bxc6 31.Qd3++ - Curtacci ) 26... bxc6 27.Bd6+ -; B2b) 22... Rxa2 23.h3 (23.h4 Qh8 24.Nxe7 Nxe7 25.Qg5 1-0 Thus was Paul Keres versus Miguel Najdorf, Gothenburg izt 1955 ) 23... Qh8 24.Nxe7 Nxe7 25.Qg5 Ra1+ 26.Kh2 Qd8 27.Qxb5+ Kc7 28.Qc5+ Kb8 29.Bxd6+ Ka8 30.Bxe7 Ra5 31.Qb4 This almost equal game was Boris Spassky versus Herman Pilnik, Gothenburg izt 1955. (RR31.Qb4 Qc7+ 32.Bd6 Qd8 33.Rf8 1-0 Spassky, B-Pilnik, H/Goteborg izt 1955/IZT (33) ) ; RR13... axb5 14.Rf1±±; RR13... Qe8 14,0-0 + Kg7 15.gxh6+ Kh7 16.Rf7++ - ]

## 14.0-0+

With the variation 13... Ne5 in order, we can better follow with the rebuttal of the main line (Kirton) [ 14.Qg6 Not it (Kirton)

**A)** RR14... axb5? 15.Rf1+ Bf6 16.Qxh7 (16.gxf6! Rf7+ -) 16... hxg5 17.Bxg5+ - (17. Bxg5 Qe7 18.Qh8+ Kf7+ -) ;

**B)** RR14... hxg5 15,0-0+ (RR15.Qxh7 gxh4 16.Rf1+ Bf6 17.Bc4+ -)

**B1)** 15... Bf6 16.Qxh7 gxh4 (16... axb5 17.Bxg5+ -) 17.e5 dxe5 18.Ne4

**B1a)** 18... Qb6+ 19.Kh1 Ke8 20.Nxf6+ Kd8 21.Qg8+ Ke7 22.Ne4;

**B1b)** 18... axb5 19.Nxf6 Qxf6 (19... Nxf6 20.Qh8++ -) 20.Qh8+ Ke7 21.Rxf6 Nxf6 22. Qxc8+ -;

**Bc)** 18... Qe7 19.Qh8+ Kf7 20.Nxf6+ -;

**B2)** 15... Nf6 16.Bxg5 axb5 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Rxf6++ -;

**C)** 14... Rf7 15.Qxh6+ Kg8

**C1)** 16.Rf1 Rxf1+ (RR16... Ne5 17.Rxf7 Nxf7 18.Qg6+ Kf8 19.Ke2) 17.Bxf1 Ne5 18.Bc4 Nxc4 19.Qg6+ ½ - ½ Timman-Stein, London 1973;

**C2)** 16.Qg6+ 16... Rg7 17.Qxe6+ Kh8 18.Bxd7

**Ca)** RR18... Bxd7 19.Qd5 (19.Qb3! Better Bxg5 blacks) 19... Bc6? ... Nd7 (19... Nc6



20,0-0-0 Rc8!?=+) ;

**C2b)** 18... Nxd7 19,0-0-0 Ne5<sup>3</sup> RR (RR19... Nf6 20.Qc4 Ng4 21.Rd2=+) 20.Qd5 (RR20. Qh6+? Rh7-+) 20... Bg4

**C2b1)** RR21.Rd2 Bxg5=+ (21... Rc8) ;

**C2b2)** 21.Rdf1 21... Bxg5+ (21... Rc8 Gligoric ) 22.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 23.Kb1 (RR23.Qd2 Qxd2+ 24.Kxd2 Nc4+ 25.Kc1=+) **C2b21)** RR23... Rc8?

**C2b211)** 24.Qxd6 Nc4 25.Rf8+ Kh7 26.Qf4 (26.Qb4? a5-+) 26... Na3+ 27.bxa3 (27. Kc1 Rxf8-+) 27... Qxf4 (27... Rxc3! 28.Qb8!f) 28.Rxf4 Rxc3 29.Kb2 Re3... Bd7, Bc6 black advantage;

**C2b212)** 24.Qd4 24... Nc4 25.Rf7 Qe5 26.Qxe5 dxe5=+;

**C2b22)** 23... Qe7 24.Qd2 Be6 (RR24... Nc4 25.Qh6+ Rh7 26.Qf4÷) 25.g3 Rd8 26.Rf4 Qg5 27.Qf2 Kg8

**C2b221)** RR28.Rf6 Ng4-+ (28... Rf7 29.Rxf7 Bxf7=+) ;

**C2b222)** 28.Rd1 28... Rf7 29.b3 (RR29.h4 Qg6+ =) 29... Qe7 30.Qd4 Ng6 31.Rxf7 Qxf7 32.Qe3 Gligoric offered tables here, assuring the title GM of Fischer. ]

## 14... Kg8 15.g6 Rg7 16.Rf7 Bxh4

[ 16... Bg5 17.Bxd7 Nxd7 18.Raf1 b5 (18... Kh8 19.Kh1 Rxf7 20.gxf7 Kg7 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.f8Q+ Nxf8 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Qxf8+ Qxf8 25.Rxf8+ Kg7 26.Rd8 Kf7 27.Na4 Ke7 28. Rh8 Bd7 29.Rh7++ - Nedeljkovic-Velimirovic Belgrade, 1963 ) 19.e5 d5 (19... Qb6+ 20. Kh1 Qe3 21.Bxg5 Qxg5 22.Qf3+ -) 20.Kh1 Ra7 (20... Rxf7 21.gxf7+ Kg7 22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.h4!+ -) 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.e6 Nf8 23.Bxg5 hxg5 24.Qxg5 Re7 25.Rxf8+ Qxf8 26.Rxf8 + Kxf8 27.Qf6++ - 1-0 I. Romanov- A.Gulbrandsen cr EU/M/GT/7,1964; 16... Rxf7 17. gxf7+ Kg7 (17... Kh7 18.f8Q Qxf8 19.Rf1 Nf6 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.e5 dxe5 22.Ne4 axb5 23. Nxf6+ Kh8 24.Qg6+ - To Van der Tak-F. Hildama cr friendly, 1996 ) 18.f8Q+ Nxf8 19. Be8 Nc6 20.Rf1 Ne5 21.Rf7+ Kg8 22.Rxe7 Qb6+ 23.Kh1+ - Georgy Georgiev-Spasov, cr BG ch, 1993 ]

## 17.Qxh6

The main line is divided now in two.

## 17... Qf6

Everything what I could find on this moved was bad (Kirton)



[ 17... Rxf7 18.gxf7+ Kxf7

**A)** RR19.Qh7+ Kf8 (19... Ke8 20.Qh5+ Kf8 21.Rf1+ Bf6 22.e5÷ Boleslavski ) 20.Qh8+ Kf7 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Rf1+ Bf6 23.Nd5 exd5 24.Qh8+ Ke7 25.Qh7+ Ke6 26.Qh3+ = Ciocaltea-Gheorghiu, Rumania 1969;

**B)** 19.Rf1+

**B1)** 19... Nf6 20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Qh8+! (21.Qxh4+ - Coast, Ls ) 21... Kf7 22.Qxd8+ -;

**B2)** 19... Bf6 20.Qh7+

**Bà)** 20... Ke8 This was refuted in Gheorghiu-Browne, Sea of the Silver, 1971 21.Qg6+

**Bà1)** 21... Ke7 22.Rxf6 Qb6+ 23.Rf2 axb5 24.Qf7+ Kd8 25.Qxe6 Ne5 (25... Nf8 26.Qf6 + Kd7 27.Nd5 Qd8 28.Qg7+ Kc6 29.Qc3+ Kd7 30.Rf7+) 26.Qg8+ Kd7 27.Nd5 Qd8 (27... Qa5 28.b4+ -) 28.Rf8+ -;

**Bà2)** 21... Kf8 22.e5 dxe5 23.Ne4

**Bà21)** 23... axb5 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Nxf6+ Nxf6 26.Rxf6

**Bà211)** 26... Qd1+ 27.Rf1 Qd4+ 28.Kh1 Qd8 29.Qg6+ Kh8 30.Qh5+N Some newness? the white give kills in 8! (Kirton) (30.h3 This was the old play, teoricamente. (Kirton) ) 30... Kg8 31.Qg4+ Kh7 32.Rf7+ Kh6 33.Qg7+ Kh5 34.Qh7+ Kg4 35.h3+ Kg5 36.h4+ Kg4 37.Qe4+ Kg3 38.Rf3 #;

**Bà212)** 26... Qd4+ 27.Kf1+ - since there is no perpetual check;

**Bà22)** 23... Qb6+ 24.Kh1

**Bà221)** 24... Ke7 25.Rxf6 axb5 26.Rf7+ Kd8 27.Qg5+ Kc7 28.Qxe5+ Kd8 29.Qg5+ Kc7 30.Qg3+ Kd8 31.Rg7 e5 (31... Qd4 32.Rg8+ Ke7 33.Qg5++ -) 32.Qg5+ Kc7 33.Qxe5+ Kd8 34.Rg8++ -;

**Bà222)** 24... axb5 25.Nxf6 Ke7 26.Qe8+ Kd6 27.Qxc8 Nxf6 28.Rxf6 Kd5 (28... Nd7 29.Qxa8 Nxf6 30.Qf8+ Kd5 31.Qxf6± Gheorghiu versus Browne decided tables Here, although the white are far better (Kirton). ) 29.Rf1 Qc6 30.Rd1+ Kc4 (30... Ke4 31.Qf8 + -; 30... Kc5 31.Qf8++ -) 31.b3+ Kc3 32.Qd8 Kb2 33.c4 bxc4 34.Qd2+ Ka3 35.Qc3 Ra6 36.bxc4+ Ka4 37.Qb3+ Ka5 38.Rb1 Qc5 39.Qc3+ Ka4 40.Qc2++ -;

**B2b)** 20... Kf8 the theory now considers too dangerous to play after 20... Kf8, and that

the white would have to make tables immediately. 21.e5! Avoiding that the N occupies e5. A tie is probable after 21.Be2 Nc6 22.Bh5 Nde5. This sacrifice to clear a square is common in all the Gotemburgo (Kirton). (RR21.Bxd7 Nxd7 22.e5 dxe5 23.Ne4 Qe7



24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.g4 Qf8 26.Qh5+ Ke7 27.g5 Qg7 28.Kh1 b5 29.gxf6+ Nxf6 30.Rxf6 Bb7- + Matulovic-Ciric, Sarajevo 1966 ) 21... dxe5

**B2b1)** 22.Ne4

**B2b11)** 22... Qe7! 23.Qh8+ Kf7

**B2b111)** 24.Ng5+! Kg6 25.Bd3++ - RRe4 26.Bxe4+ Kxg5 27.h4+ Kg4 28.Qg8+ Qg7 29.Qxe6+ Kh5 30.Qf5+ Kh6 31.Qf4+ RRKh5 (31... Bg5 32.hxg5+ Qxg5 33.Qh2+ Qh5 34.Qd6++ - Nikolic V.-Nikolic Z., Yugoslavia 1972 ) 32.Qf3+ Qg4 (32... Kh6 33.Qe3+ Kh5 34.Rf5++ -) 33.Qe3 Bg5 34.hxg5 Ne5 35.Rf3 Qxg5 36.Rh3+ Bxh3 37.Qxh3+ Qh4 =; B2b112) 24.Nxf6!N This newness shines excellent (Kirton). 24... Qxf6 (24... Nxf6 25.Be8+ Qxe8 26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.Rxf6+ Qf7 28.Qxf7 #) 25.Rxf6+ Nxf6 26.Qxc8+ -;

**B2b12)** 22... Qb6+ 23.Rf2 axb5 24.g4 Ra4 25.g5 Rxe4 26.Qxe4 Qd4 (RR26... Qxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Bxg5 28.h4± Curtacci ) 27.Qg6 Qg4+ 28.Kf1 (RR28.Kh1? b6!-+) 28... Nc6 29.Qh6+ Kf7 30.Qh7+ Ke8 31.Qg8+ Ke7 32.gxf6+ Nxf6 33.Qxc8 Nd5 34.Ke1 Qg5+- Nunn;

**B2b2)** 22.Be2!N After this discovery the white wins forzadamente. 22... Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Ke8 24.Qg8+ Ke7 25.Rd1! Nf8 (25... Qd8 26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.Rf1‡; 25... Nc6 26.Bh5 Nd4 27.Ne4 Nf8 28.Qf7+ Kd8 29.Qxf6+ Kd7 30.Qxe5+ -) 26.Ne4 Nbd7 27.Nxf6! Kxf6 28.h4!

**B2b21)** 28... Ng6 29.h5

**B2b211)** 29... Ne7 30.Qh8+ Kf7 31.h6+ -;

**B2b212)** 29... Ngf8 30.h6 Ng6 31.Qg7+ Kf5 (31... Kg5 32.h7 Qd8 33.Bd3+ -) 32.Bd3+ e4 33.Bxe4+ Kxe4 34.Qxg6+ Kf4 35.g3+ Ke5 36.Qg5+ Ke4 37.Qf4 #;

**B2b213)** 29... Nf4 30.h6 Qf2 31.Qg7+ Kf5 32.Bg4+ Ke4 33.Bf3+ Ke3 34.Qg5! e4 (34... Qxc2 35.Qg3+ -) 35.h7 exf3 36.Rd3+ Ke2 37.Rxf3 Qe1+ (37... Qxg2+ 38.Qxg2+ Nxg2 39.Rg3 b5 40.Rxg2+ Kf1 41.h8Q Bb7 42.Qh2+ -) 38.Kh2 e5 39.h8Q Kd1 40.Qhh4

Qe2 41.Qgg4 Nb6 42.Rf1+ Kxc2 43.Qxe2+ Nxe2 and the white gives kills in 9 44.Qe4+ Kd2 45.Qb4+ Kd3 46.Rf3+ Kc2 47.Qe4+ Kd2 48.Qd3+ Ke1 49.Qb1+ Nc1 50.Qxc1+ Ke2 51.Re3+ Kf2 52.Qg1 #;

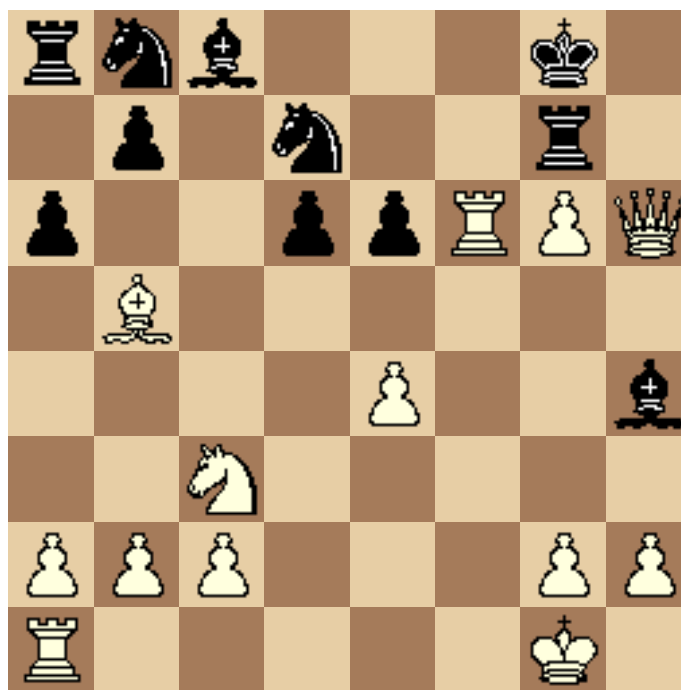
**B2b214)** 29... Ndf8 30.Rf1+ Ke7 31.hxg6 Nxg6 32.Qf7+ (32.Qxg6+ -) 32... Kd6 33.Rd1+ Kc6 (33... Kc5 34.b4++ -) 34.Bf3+ Kb5 35.Rd3 Qc5 (35... Qa5 36.Rd5+ exd5 37.Qxd5+ Kb6 38.Qd8+ Kb5 39.c4+ Kb4 40.Qd6+ Qc5 41.Qd2+ Kxc4 42.Be2 #) 36.Bxb7 Ra7 (36... Rb8 37.Rb3+ Ka5 38.Ra3+ Kb5 39.Be4 Bb7 40.Qd7+ Kb6 41.Rb3+ Ka5 42.Qd2+ Ka4 43.Ra3+ Qxa3 44.Qd7+ Ka5 45.Qc7+ Ka4 46.bxa3+ -) 37.Qe8+ Kb6 38.Rb3+ Ka5 39.Qd8+ Ka4 40.Bc6+ Qxc6 41.Ra3+ Kb5 42.Qa5+ Kc4 43.Rc3+ Kd4 44.Qb4+ Kd5 45.Rd3 #;

**B2b22)** 28... Qe3 29.Bh5 Ke7 30.Qf7+ Kd8 31.Qxf8+ Kc7 32.Qd6+ Kd8 33.Rf1 Of course the white does not wish perpetual check. 33... Qh6 34.g4!

**B2b221)** 34... b5 35.g5 Qh8 36.g6 Bb7+ 37.Kg1 Qh6 (37... Rc8 38.Rf7 Qe8 39.g7 Rc6 40.Rxd7+ Kc8 41.Bxe8+ -) 38.Rf7 Qc1+ 39.Bd1 Qe3+ 40.Kh2+ -;

**B2b222)** 34... a5 35.g5 Qh8 36.g6 Ra6 37.Rf8+ Qxf8 38.Qxf8+ Nxf8 39.g7+ - a pretty end to finish the Gotemburgo! (Kirton); RR17... Bf6? 18.Rxg7+ Bxg7 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.e5!± Mikhalchishin ]

## 18.Rxf6!



This is much more strong that the theoretical recommendation 18.Rf1. [ 18.Rf1 Not better it as my analysis proved (Kirton). 18... axb5 (RR18... Qxf1+ 19.Bxf1 Bf6 20.Rxg7+ Bxg7 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Qh4 complex Nf6 23.g4, Mikhalchishin ; 18... Bg5 Junior Coast. 19.Rxg7+ Qxg7 20.Qxg5 axb5 21.Qd8+ Nf8 22.Qxc8±)

**A)** 19.e5

**A1)** RR19... Qxe5 20.Qxh4 Nc6 21.Ne4! d5 only (21... Ra4 22.Rxd7! Bxd7 23.Nf6+ Qxf6 24.Qxf6 Ra8 25.h4+ -) 22.Nf6+! (22.Rxd7 Bxd7 23.Nf6+ Qxf6 24.Qxf6 Ne7!÷) 22... Nxf6 23.R1xf6 Bd7? (23... Qe3+ 24.Rf2 Qe1+ 25.Rf1 unique Qxf1+ 26.Kxf1 Rxf7+

27.gxf7+ Kxf7 28.Qh7+ Kf6 29.Qh8+ Kf7 30.h4! ... h5-h6 ) 24.Rxg7+! Kxg7 25.Rf7++  
- Diaz-Alzate, Bayamo 1984;

**A2)** RR19... Nxe5? 20.Qxh4!!+ -;

**A3)** 19... dxe5! Perhaps 20.R1xf6 (RR20.Ne4 with initiative ) 20... Bxf6 21.Ne4 Rxf7 22.  
gxf7+ Kxf7 23.Qh7+ the white is better here (Kirton).

**A4)** 19... Qxg6? 20.Rxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxe6+ (21.Qxh4! Loving Rodriguez. 21... Nc6)  
21... Kh8

**Aa)** 22.Rf7 Qg5! (RR22... Nf8! 23.Qe8± Loving Rodriguez. ; RR22... Nc6 23.Rxg7 Kxg7  
24.Qg4+ Loving Rodriguez. ; RR22... Nb6 23.Qe8+ Kh7 24.Qf8 Qxf7 25.Qxf7+ Kh6 26.  
Ne4! dxe5 27.g3 ' Loving Rodriguez. ) 23.g3 Nc6 24.Rf5 Nf6! 0-1 Kashliuk-Nasibullin,  
19th postal Soviet ch. 1992;

**A4b)** 22.Qe8+! 22... Qg8 23.Qh5+ Qh7 24.Qe8+;

**A5)** 19... Bg5!N Like in the line 19.Nb5, this newness grants to the sufficient blacks  
resources. Remember that everything what the blacks must do is to tie. For that reason  
I recommend 18.Rxf6 better Bxf6 and the white (Kirton).

**Aä)** 20.Rxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxg5 Nc6 22.Ne4 (22.Rf7 Qxe5 23.Qh6 Qh8-+; 22.Nxb5 Ndx5  
23.Nxd6 Qxg6 24.Qf4 Bd7 25.Ne4 Kg7-+) 22... Qxe5 23.Qh4 Qh8 24.Rf8+ Nxf8 25.Nf6  
+ Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Ne5 27.g7 Nh7 28.Qd8+ Kxg7 29.Qxd6 Nf7 30.Qg3+ Kf6 31.Qh4+  
Nhg5 32.Qf4+ Ke7 33.h4 Nh7-+;

**A5b)** 20.Qh7+ "I made an effort to make the this most complete article possible. Now I  
have the privilege to present/display to them secret that was not revealed in my  
previous publication "(Kirton) 20... Rxh7 21.gxh7+ Kh8 22.exf6 d5 23.Nxb5 Nc6 24.Nd6  
Be3+ 25.Kh1 Bc5 26.Nxb7 (26.Nxc8 Nce5+ -) 26... Bf8 27.Re1 Rxa2 28.g4 Rxb2 29.  
Rxe6 (29.g5 Rxb7 30.Rxe6 Nd8 31.Rxf8+ Nxf8 32.Re8 Bh3 33.Rxf8+ Kxh7 34.Kg1 Ne6  
35.Re8 Kg6-+; 29.Nd6 Bxd6 30.Rxe6 Nce5 31.Re8+ Bf8 32.Rexf8+ Nxf8 33.Rxf8+  
Kxh7 34.Rxc8 Kg6 35.Rc5 Nxg4-+) 29... Rxc2 30.g5 Nce5 31.Rxe5 Nxe5 32.Rxf8+  
Kxh7 33.f7 Bxb7 My fantasy line. 34.Rh8+ Kg6 35.f8Q d4+ 36.Kg1 Nf3+ 37.Kh1 Nxh2+  
38.Kg1 Rg2+ 39.Kh1 Rf2+ 40.Kg1 Rxf8 41.Rxf8 Nf3+ 42.Kf2 Nxg5-+;

**B)** 19.Nxb5

**B1)** 19... Nc6? 20.R1xf6!N (20.Nc7? Bg5 21.Qh3 Qxg6 22.Rxg7+ Kxg7 23.Nxa8 Qxe4  
24.Kh1 Qe2 25.Qc3+ Nde5 26.Re1 Qf2 27.Rd1 Be3 28.Nc7 Kg8 29.Nb5 Ng4-+ Yakir  
Kurass-Ruchkin Moscow tt, 1961 ) 20... Bxf6 21.Nc7+ -;

**B2)** 19... Rxa2 20.R7xf6 This is an improvement of Mikhalchishin on its game with  
Kupreichik. (20.Nxd6? Bg5 21.Rxg7+ Qxg7 22.Qxg5 Qd4+ 23.Kh1 Qf6 24.Qc1 Qxb2 25.  
Qh6 Qg7 26.Qc1 Nc6 27.Nxc8 Nf6 28.Nd6 Ng4 29.Qe1 Qd4 30.h3 Qxd6 31.hxg4 Qe7 32.  
Qd2 Qg7 33.e5 Ra5 34.Qd6 Rxe5 35.Ra1 Rh5+ 36.gxh5 Qxa1+ 37.Kh2 Qe5+ 38.Qxe5  
Nxe5 39.Kg3 Kg7 40.Kf4 Nd7 41.Kg5 Kg8 = Adrian Mikhalchishin-Victor Kupreichik  
Frunze Ch-SU, 1981 ) 20... Bxf6 21.Nxd6 Nc6 22.Nf7 Rxf7 23.gxf7+ Kxf7 24.Qh7+ Ke8  
25.Qg8+ Ke7 26.Qxc8 Rxb2 27.Qg8² Adrian Mikhalchishin, Lev Polugaevsky;

**B3)** 19... Bg5!N An improvement to over the 19... Kxa2 played in A. Mikhalchishin  
versus V. Kupreichuk 1981. 20.Rxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxg5 Nc6 22.Nxd6 (22.Rf7 Qxb2 23.  
Qh6 Qa1+ 24.Kf2 Qh8-+) 22... Qd4+ 23.Kh1 Qxd6 24.Qh6 Qe7 25.g7 Qxg7 26.Qxe6+  
Kh8 27.Qe8+ Qg8 28.Qh5+ =; 18.e5 a play considered erroneous by Mikhalchishin  
(Informing 1981) due to the erroneous reason 18... Nxe5 Its line was 18.e5? Nxe5 19.  
Ne4 Nf3!+ 20.Kh1 Qg6-+. But this can very be improved with 19.Rxf6!N Bxf6 20.Ne4  
Be7 21.Be8+ - transposing to 19.e5, in as much 19.Ne4 it is "to blunder:" Mi asks is if

the white can win as opposed to other answers of the blacks as opposed to 18.e5? I will leave for the readers the decision about if to play 18.Rxf6 or 18.e5. (Kirton)

**A)** 18... Nxe5 19.Rxf6!N (19.Ne4 Nf3+ 20.Kh1 Qxg6-+ Mikhalchishin, Informer 1981 )  
19... Bxf6 20.Ne4 Be7 21.Be8+ -;

**B)** 18... Bf2+!N 19.Kh1 Qxg6 20.Rxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxe6+ Qf7 22.Qg4+ Kh8 23.Bd3 Nc6  
24.Qh3+ Kg7 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ Qg7 27.Qxd6+ Qe7 28.Qh6+ Qg7 =; RR18.Bxd7  
Nxd7 19.Rxf6 Bxf6 - 18.Rxf6 Bxf6 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 ]

**18... Bxf6 19.e5!!N**



Newness of Kirton, indicated in the article of New in Chess YB48. is not sprightly the square e4 for the N, and the diagonal the Bd3 to protect the Pg6 in natural form, without having to go to Bh5 like in the game of Gaspariants. [ 19.Be2? The blacks must find improvements in following plays (Kirton) 19... Ne5 20.Bh5 Bd7 21.Rf1 Be7 22.Rf7 Nxf7 23.gxf7+ Rxf7 24.Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Qh7+ = Gaspariants-Eidlin, Moscow 1971. In the final position I believe that the white win (Kirton). 25... Ke8 (25... Kf8 26.h4 Bf6 27.e5 Bxe5 28.Ne4 d5 29.Ng5 Ke8 30.c3 Bd6 31.h5 Kd8 32.h6 Be7 33.Qg7+ -) 26.h4 Nc6 27.h5 Bf8 28.h6 Ne7 (28... Ne5 29.Qg8 Nf7 30.h7+ -) 29.Qh8 Kf7 30.e5 d5 31.h7+ -; RR19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Ne2 (20.Rf1 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Ne5÷ Skrobek-Inkirov, Polanica Zdroj 1981 ) 20... Ne5 21.Nf4! (21.Rd1÷) 21... Ng4! 22.Qh5 Bd4+ 23.Kf1 e5! (23... Ne3+ 24.Ke2 e5µ) 24.Nd5 Bd7 25.Qg5 Rf8+ 26.Ke1 Bb5 27.c3? Rademacher, H-Wiese, T/Dortmund 1987/TD (27.Rd1!±) ; 19.Bd3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Ne5 21.Rf1 Nbc6 22.h4 Nxc6 23.e5 Ncxe5 (23... Ngxe5? 24.Bh7+ 1-0 Field of broom, T-Cativelli, G/Metro à prelim 1975 (24) ) 24.h5 Nxd3 25.cxd3 Ne7 with initiative ]

The Newness of Kirton, indicated in the article of New in Chess YB48. Up to here had not reached parts I IV

## 19... Bxe5



[ 19... Nxe5 There are the Mikhalchishin position here after the transposition with 18.e5 Nxe5. I have offered some variations of fantasy so that the readers Nxe5 has an idea of the possibilities after 19... (Kirton). 20.Ne4 Be7 ( Morgado 20... Ng4 21.Nxf6+ Nxf6 22. Rf1 axb5 23.Rxf6+ -) 21.Be8 Bd7 (21... Nbc6 22.Rf1 Bd7 23.Rf8+!! - Kills in 4. ) 22. Qh3! and now

**A)** 22... Bc8 23.Rf1 Nxc6 (23... Nbc6 24.Rf8+ Kxf8 25.Qh8+ Rg8 26.g7+ Kxe8 27.Qxg8 + Kd7 28.Qh7 d5 29.Nf2 b6 30.g8Q Bb7 31.Qgg7+ -) 24.Rf6 Bxf6 25.Nxf6+ Kf8 26. Bxc6 Rxc6 27.Qh8+ Kf7 28.Qxc8+ -;

**B)** 22... Bxe8 23.Qxe6+ Kh8 24.Qh3+ Kg8 25.Qc8 Nxc6 26.Qxe8+ Kh7 27.Rf1 Rg8 28. Rf7+ Kh8 29.Nf6 Bxf6 30.Qe3 Rg7 31.Rxf6 (31.Qh3+ Kg8 32.Rxf6 Nc6 33.Qe6+ Kh7 34. Rf3 Re7 35.Rf7+ Rxf7 36.Qxf7+ Kh6 37.Qxb7+ -) 31... Nd7 32.Qh6+ Rh7 33.Qxg6 Rg8 34.Qf5 Nxf6 35.Qxf6+ Rhg7 36.Qh6+ Rh7 37.Qxd6+ -;

**C)** 22... d5 23.Ng3 Nxc6 (23... Bxe8 24.Qxe6+ Kh8 25.Qh3+ Kg8 26.Qc8 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Nxc6 28.Qxe8+ Nf8 29.Rf1+ -) 24.Bxd7 Nxd7 25.Qxe6+ Kh7 26.Nf5 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Ndf8 28.Qf6 Rd7 29.h4 Re8 30.h5 Ne5 31.Qh6+ Kg8 32.Re1 Ba7 33.Qf6 Rh7 34.g4 Bb8 35. Nh6+ Rxh6 36.Qxh6 Nf7 37.Qg6+ Nxc6 38.Rxe8+ Nf8 39.Rxb8 Nd6 40.Rd8+ -; Morgado 19... dxe5 20.Bd3 Nc6 21.h4± ]

## 20.Bd3 Nc6

[ 20... Nf6 21.Rf1 Nbd7 22.Qg5

**A)** Morgado 22... Nc5 23.h4 Bd7 24.Rxf6 (24.h5! Nxd3 25.cxd3 Nxh5 26.Qxh5 Be8 27. Qg4 Rxc6 28.Qe4 ') 24... Bd4+ 25.Kh2 Bxf6 26.Qxf6 Nxd3 27.cxd3 Rf8 28.Qg5 Rf5 29. Qg4 Rf6 30.h5 d5 31.Qh4±;

**B)** 22... b5 23.Ne4 Ne8 24.h4 Bb7 (24... d5 25.Ng3 Bf6 26.Qe3 Re7 27.Nh5 e5 28.Bf5

Bg7 29.Nxg7 Nxg7 30.Qg5+ -) 25.h5 d5 26.Ng3 Bd4+ 27.Kh1 Bf6 28.Qg4 Re7 29.h6 Ne5 30.Qg5! Nd7 (30... Nxd3 31.Rxf6 Nxf6 32.Qxf6 Nf2+ 33.Kg1 Rae8 34.Nh5+ -) 31. Rxf6 Ndx6 32.Nh5 Nxh5 33.Qxe7 Neg7 34.g4 Re8 35.Qf7+ Kh8+ -; 20... Nc5 21.Rf1 Nc6 22.h4 Bd7 (Morgado 22... b5 23.h5 Bb7 24.Qg5 Nxd3 25.cxd3 Ne7 26.Ne2 Bxb2 27.Rb1 Ba3 28.Rb3 Bc5+ 29.d4 Bb6 30.Qf6±) 23.h5 Bd4+ 24.Kh1

**A)** Morgado 24... Nxd3 25.cxd3 Ne7 26.Rf7 (26.Ne2 Bxb2 27.Qg5 Bb5 28.h6 Rxc6 29. Qxe7 Rxh6+ 30.Kg1 Be5 31.Rf3 Kh8 32.Qxb7 Rg8 33.Qe4 with initiative) 26... Rxf7 27. gxf7+ Kxf7 28.Ne4±;

**B)** 24... Ne5 25.Qg5 Ncxd3 26.cxd3 Bc6 27.Ne2 Bxb2 28.Nf4 (Morgado 28.d4!+ -) 28... Rf8 29.Rb1 Rf5 30.Qd8+ Rf8 31.Qh4 Nf3 32.Qg4 Rxf4 33.Qxf4 Be5 34.Qg4 Nd4 35. h6 Rd7 36.Rb4 Nf5 37.Qg5 b5 38.Kg1 a5 39.Qc1 Bd4+ 40.Kh2 Rc7 41.Rxd4 Nxd4 42. Qg5+ -; 20... Nf8 This is the main variation of the analysis of Kirton. There are several options, but no offers the salvation of the blacks (Kirton). 21.Rf1 Nbd7 22.Qh4!

**A)** 22... d5 23.Rf3 Nxg6 24.Bxg6 Rxc6 25.Qd8+ Kh7 26.Rh3+ (26.Rf7+ Rg7 27.Rf3 Rg6 =; 26.Qh4+ Kg8) 26... Rh6 27.Qe7+ Bg7 28.Rxh6+ Kxh6 29.Qxe6+ Nf6 30.Qe5 and as d' falls the laborer ' the white is better;

**B)** 22... Nxg6 23.Bxg6 Rxc6 24.Qd8+ Kh7 25.Ne4 b5 26.Rf3 Bg7 27.Ng5+ Rxc6 28. Qxc6 Ne5 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Qe8+ Kh7 31.Rh3+ Bh6 32.Qh5 Dale Kirton finalizes Here with the following commentary "has been a pleasure to share with You the aim of the Gotemburgo variation". ]

## 21.Rf1

And in this position I suggest

## 21... Ne7?





A possible variation is [ 21... Bd4+ 22.Kh1

**A)** 22... Bxc3 23.bxc3 Nde5 24.h4 Bd7 25.h5 Ne7 26.Qg5 Nf5 27.Be4 (27.Kg1? Re8 28.g4 Ne7 29.Rf6 Bc6 30.Kf1 Nxd3 31.cxd3 Nd5 32.h6 Nxf6 33.Qxf6 Rge7 34.g5 Bb5 35.Ke2 e5 36.h7+ Rxh7 37.gxh7+ Kxh7 38.Qf7+ Kh8 39.g6+ -) 27... d5 28.Rxf5 Nxd6 29.h6 exf5 30.Qf6 Re7 31.Qxg6+ Kf8 32.h7+ -;

**B)** 22... Nde5 23.Ne4 Nxd3 24.cxd3 Be5 (24... Bd7 25.Rf7 Nd8 26.Rxg7+ Bxg7 27.Qh7 + Kf8 28.Nxd6 a5 29.h4 a4 30.h5 Ra5 31.Kg1 Bd4+ 32.Kf1 Bc6 33.g4 Rc5 34.h6 Rg5 35.g7+ Bxg7 36.hxg7+ Rxg7 37.Qh8++ -)

**B1)** Morgado 25.d4! he is more forceful, since if 25... Bxd4 (25... Nxd4 26.Ng5 Nf5 27.Nf7! Rxf7 28.gxf7+ Kxf7 29.g4+ -) 26.Nxd6+ -;

**B2)** 25.h4 25... Ne7 26.h5 Nf5 (26... Bd7 27.Rf7 Rxf7 28.gxf7+ Kxf7 29.d4+ -) 27.Qg5 Bd7 28.g4+ - ]

**22.h4 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 Bxc3 24.bxc3 Ne5 25.h5 Bd7 26.Qg5 Nf5 27.Be4 Bc6 28.Bxf5 exf5 29.Rxf5 Re8 30.Rf6 Rge7 31.h6 Nf3 32.Rf8+ Kxf8 33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.h7+ Rxh7+ 35.gxh7+ Kxh7 36.gxf3 Rg8**

*and he is not so safe that the white can impose their advantage, even though the blacks decided to give its laborer of ' d6', since the white K cannot go so far towards the center*

\*

## (2) Dale Kirton - Kevin Gentes Theory & Practice, 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.  
Bh4 g5



If you have either of these books, John Nunn and Michael Stean, Sicilian Defence, Najdorf Variation, 1982, or, John Nunn, The Complete Najdorf, 6.Bg5, 1996, I suggest you use these to see where theory was.

**10.fxg5 Nfd7 11.Nxe6!**



The so-called Gothenburg Variation. Named for the 1955 Interzonal Tournament where the Argentinian Team led by Najdorf lost all 3 games with their Soviet counterparts. ie. Geller-Panno, Keres-Najdorf, Spassky-Pilnik. It is said that Geller lead the way with Bb5 and when the Argentinians didnt like the way Pannos position looked, went another route. But Pannos way held out the most hope if followed by Rh7, but who knew that in

that time. This epoch in history is known as the Argentinian Disaster. [11.Qh5!? A move which is now second best.]

### 11...fxe6

[11...Qb6 12.Nd5 Qa5+ 13.b4 Ne5 14.Qc3+- Francisco Trois-F.Burgos,Brazil,1969]

### 12.Qh5+ Kf8 13.Bb5

It is said that Geller was the first to play this move during the Triple Disaster.

### 13...Rh7



This move was first discovered by Keres. Bobby Fischer utilized it to gain his Grandmaster title against Gligoric, Portoroz 1958. There is a great anecdote of Fischer and Gligoric on a walk about a week before their game. Fischer asked Gligoric what he knew about the Gothenburg variation, and Gligoric replied, nothing! [13...Ne5 14.Bg3 Rh7 (14...Bxg5 15.O-O+ Ke7 16.Bxe5 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 dxe5 18.Qf7+ Kd6 19.Rad1+ Qd4 20.Rxd4+ exd4 21.e5+ Kc5 22.Qc7+ Nc6 23.Bxc6 This was the game that led the way for the Soviets and Argentinians! Efim Geller vs. Oscar Panno IZ 1955.) 15.Bxe5 dxe5 16.Rd1



**A)** 16...Nd7 17.Qg6 Rf7 18.Qxh6+ Kg8 19.Qg6+ Kf8 20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.g6 Rg7 22.Bc4 Qb6 23.Rd3 (23.Nd5 Qc5 24.Ne3 Qc6 25.Rd6 Bxd6 26.Bxe6+ Kf8 27.Qh8+ Ke7 28.Nd5 +- - Ninov-Spasov cr ch-bg-20,1989) 23...Nf8 24.Rg3 Qd4 (24...Bd7 25.Rf1 Be8 26.Rf7 +- -) 25.Rf1 Qxc4 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 (26...Bxf8 27.Rh3+-) 27.Qh8+ Rg8 28.Rf3+ Ke8 29.Qxg8+ Kd7 30.g7+- J. Adams;

**B)** 16...Bd7

**B1)** 17.g6 Not best , but the only move considered by theory. 17...Rg7 18.0-0+ Kg8 19.Bc4 Qc8 (19...Qe8 20.Nd5 Bc5+ 21.Kh1 exd5 22.Bxd5+ Be6 23.Bxe6+ Qxe6 24.Rd8+ +- -) 20.Bb3 **B1a)** 20...Be8 21.Nd5 Qc5+ (21...Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Rxc6 23.Rf6± Blatny-Minic, Sombor 1966) 22.Kh1 Bxc6 23.Qxe5+-; **B1b)** 20...Nc6 21.Rf7 Nd8 22.Rxc6+ Kxc6 23.Qxe5+ Kxc6 24.Qg3+ Kh7 This is where theory left the 13...Ne5 variation. So I had to find an improvement. ;

**B2)** 17.Bxd7!N Here is the antidote.



17...Nxd7 18.Qg6 Rf7 19.Qxh6+ Kg8 20.Qg6+ Kf8 21.Rf1 Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1 **B2a)** 22...Bxc6 23.Qh7 **B2a1)** 23...Qf6+ 24.Ke2 Nc5 (24...Nb6 25.Qxb7 Qh6 26.Qxb6+-) 25.b4

+-; **B2a2)** 23...Be7 **B2a21)** 24.Rd3 Qe8 25.Rf3+!? White could transpose back with 25. Rd7 Qd7. Now white gets 2 favourable endings, 25...Nf6 (25...Bf6 26.g4 Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7 28.g5 Rh8 29.h3 Kg6 30.gxf6±) 26.g4 Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7 28.g5 Rh8 29.gxf6 Bxf6 30.h3±; **B2a22)** 24.Rxd7! 24...Qxd7 25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.Qxa8 Qd2 27.Qxb7 Qf4+ The other check holds no hope for Black either; (27...Qc1+ 28.Kf2 Qxc2+ 29.Ne2 Kf6 30.Qb3) 28.Ke2 Qxh2 29.Qa7 Qh5+ 30.Kd3+-; **B2b)** 22...Bc5 23.Rd3 Ke7 (23...Qc7 24.Qxe6 Nb6 25.Rf3+ Kg7 26.Qf6+ Kg8 27.Qg6+ Qg7 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Rh3+ Qh7 30.Rxh7+ Kxh7 31.Qf7+ Kh8 32.g6 Rf8 33.g7+ Kh7 34.gxf8Q#) 24.Qg7+ Ke8 25.Rf3 Qc8 (25...Qe7 26.Qg8+ Nf8 27.g6 Qg5 28.Qf7+ Kd8 29.Rd3+ Kc8 30.g7+-) 26.Qf7+ Kd8 27.g6 Kc7 28.Qxe6 Bf8 (28...Kb8 29.Rf7 Nb6 30.Qxc8+ Nxc8 31.g7+-; 28...Qe8 29.Nd5+ Kd8 30.Qxe8+ Kxe8 31.g7+-; 28...Qh8 29.Nd5+ Kd8 30.Rf7 Nf8 31.Qf5 Qg8 32.Qf6+ Kc8 33.Rc7+ Kb8 34.Qd8+ Ka7 35.Rxb7+ Kxb7 36.Qc7#) 29.Nd5+ Kb8 White now liquidates nicely; 30.Qxd7+-; 13...Kg7? Najdorf and Pilnik were more than interested in the Geller-Panno encounter. Not liking what they saw happening to poor Panno, chose this try. The power of 13.Bb5 must have come as quite a shock. 14.0-0 Ne5 15.Bg3 Ng6 16.gxh6+ Rxh6 17.Rf7+ Kxf7 18.Qxh6 axb5 19.Rf1+ Ke8 20.Qxg6+ Kd7 21.Rf7 Nc6 22.Nd5 Rxa2 23.h3 (23.h4 Qh8 24.Nxe7 Nxe7 25.Qg5 This was Paul Keres vs. Miguel Najdorf, Gothenburg IZ 1955.) 23...Qh8 24.Nxe7 Nxe7 25.Qg5 Ra1+ 26.Kh2 Qd8 27.Qxb5+ Kc7 28.Qc5+ Kb8 29.Bxd6+ Ka8 30.Bxe7 Ra5 31.Qb4 This nearly identical game was Boris Spassky vs. Herman Pilnik Gothenburg IZ 1955. ]

**14.0-0+**



With the 13...Ne5 variation in order. i.e. White winning. We can get on with the refutation of the Main Line. [14.Qg6 Rf7 15.Qxh6+ Kg8 16.Qg6+ (16.Rf1 Rxf1+ 17.Bxf1 Ne5 18.Bc4 Nxc4= Jan Timman-Michael Stean,London,1973) 16...Rg7 17.Qxe6+ Kh8 18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.0-0-0 Ne5 20.Qd5 Bg4 21.Rdf1 Bxg5+ (21...Rc8µ Gligoric) 22.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 23.Kb1 Qe7 24.Qd2 Be6 25.g3 Rd8 26.Rf4 Qg5 27.Qf2 Kg8 28.Rd1 Rf7 29.b3 Qe7 30.Qd4 Ng6 31.Rxf7 Qxf7 32.Qe3 Gligoric offered Fischer a draw here, mathematically ensuring Fishers G.M. title]

**14...Kg8 15.g6 Rg7 16.Rf7 Bxh4**



[16...Bg5 17.Bxd7 Nxd7 18.Raf1 b5 (18...Kh8 19.Kh1 Rxf7 20.gxf7 Kg7 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.f8Q+ Nxf8 23.Qf7+ Kh8 24.Qxf8+ Qxf8 25.Rxf8+ Kg7 26.Rd8 Kf7 27.Na4 Ke7 28.Rh8 Bd7 29.Rh7+- Nedeljkovic-Velimirovic Belgrad,1963) 19.e5 d5 (19...Qb6+ 20.Kh1 Qe3 21.Bxg5 Qxg5 22.Qf3+-) 20.Kh1 Ra7 (20...Rxf7 21.gxf7+ Kg7 22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.h4! +-) 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.e6 Nf8 23.Bxg5 hxg5 24.Qxg5 Re7 25.Rxf8+ Qxf8 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Qf6+- I. Romanov-A. Gulbrandsen cr EU/M/GT/7,1964; 16...Rxf7 17.gxf7+ Kg7 (17...Kh7 18.f8Q Qxf8 19.Rf1 Nf6 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.e5 dxe5 22.Ne4 axb5 23.Nxf6+ Kh8 24.Qg6+- A. Van der Tak-F. Hildama cr friendly,1996) 18.f8Q+ Nxf8 19.Be8 Nc6 20.Rf1 Ne5 21.Rf7+ Kg8 22.Rxe7 Qb6+ 23.Kh1+- Georgy Georgiev-Spas Spasov cr ch-BG,1993]

### 17.Qxh6

The Main Line now splits in two. 17...Qxf6 and 17...Rxf7.

### 17...Rxf7



[17...Qf6 Everything I could find on this move was wrong. I spent hours trying to sort it out until I discovered Parma!.Then the Gaspariants-Eidlin game started to make alot of

sense.

**A)** 18.Rf1 Not best as my analyses proves.



**A1)** 18...Qxf1+ 19.Kxf1 Bf6 20.g4 (20.Rxg7+ Bxg7 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Qh4 Nf6 23.g4 unclear Romanishin) 20...Rxf7 21.gxf7+ Kxf7 22.e5 Bxe5 23.Ne4 axb5 24.Ng5+ Ke7 25.Qh7+ Kd8 26.Nxe6+ Ke8 27.Nc7+ Kf8 28.Qf5+ Ke7 29.Qe6+ Kd8 30.Nd5 Nc6 31.Qg8+ +- Carlos Gutierrez-Gustavo Cataldi cr ch-AR-11,1983;

**A2)** 18...axb5



**A2a)** 19.Nxb5 **A2a1)** 19...Nc6? 20.Nc7?? (20.R1xf6!N I wonder why people dont want to take the queen? After this Novelty, Black is on the ropes. When the GMs at New In Chess added the illustrated games, this powerful move went unnoticed. This actually left the Gothenburg playable. I spent some enjoyable time proving that white wins now. 20...Bxf6 21.Nc7+- I will let you work it out. As I had to do.) 20...Bg5 21.Qh3 Qxg6 22.Rxg7+ Kxg7 23.Nxa8 Qxe4 24.Kh1 Qe2 25.Qc3+ Nde5 26.Re1 Qf2 27.Rd1 Be3 28.Nc7 Kg8 29.Nb5 Ng4-+ Yakir Kurass-Ruchkin Moscow tt,1961; **A2a2)** 19...Rxa2 20.R7xf6 (20.Nxd6? Bg5 21.Rxg7+ Qxg7 22.Qxg5 Qd4+ 23.Kh1 Qf6 24.Qc1 Qxb2 25.Qh6 Qg7

26.Qc1 Nc6 27.Nxc8 Nf6 28.Nd6 Ng4 29.Qe1 Qd4 30.h3 Qxd6 31.hxg4 Qe7 32.Qd2 Qg7 33.e5 Ra5 34.Qd6 Rxe5 35.Ra1 Rh5+ 36.gxh5 Qxa1+ 37.Kh2 Qe5+ 38.Qxe5 Nxe5 39. Kg3 Kg7 40.Kf4 Nd7 41.Kg5 Kg8 and a draw was agreed Adrian Mikhalchishin-Victor Kupreichik Frunze ch-SU,1981) 20...Bxf6 21.Nxd6 Nc6 22.Nf7 Rxf7 23.gxf7+ Kxf7 24. Qh7+ Ke8 25.Qg8+ Ke7 26.Qxc8 Rxb2 This is A. Mikhalchishins improvement on his game with Kupreichik. 27.Qg8<sup>2</sup> According to Polugaevsky!; **A2a3**) 19...Bg5!N When I found this move I knew white had gone wrong. 20.Rxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxg5 Nc6 22.Nxd6 (22.Rf7 Qxb2 23.Qh6 Qa1+ 24.Kf2 Qh8-+) 22...Qd4+ 23.Kh1 Qxd6 24.Qh6 Qe7 25.g7 Qxg7 26.Qxe6+ Kh8 27.Qe8+ Qg8 28.Qh5+=;

**A2b**) 19.e5 **A2b1**) 19...Qxe5 20.Qxh4 Nc6 21.Ne4± Diaz-Alzate,Bayamo,1984; **A2b2**) 19...Qxg6 20.Rxg7+ Qxg7 21.Qxe6+ Kh8 22.Rf7?? (22.Qe8+ Qg8 23.Qh5+ Qh7 24.Qe8 +=) 22...Qg5 23.g3 Nc6 24.Rf5 Nf6-+ Kashliuk-Nasibullin,cr ch-SU-19,1992; **A2b3**) 19...Bg5!N As with the 19.Nxb5 line, this Novelty gives Black sufficient resources. Remember all Black has to do is draw. This is why I recommend 18.Rxf6 Bxf6 with White on top. **A2b31**) 20.Qh7+ In this article, I have endeavoured to be as complete with new ideas as possible. My article in New In Chess YB.48 Gave all the refutations of known theory. Now it is my privelage to present the reader with as many secrets left unrevealed from that publicatiion. 20...Rxh7 21.gxh7+ Kh8 22.exf6 d5 Perhaps 22...Nc6 is most exact. 23.Nxb5 Nc6 24.Nd6 Be3+ 25.Kh1 Bc5 26.Nxb7 (26.Nxc8 Nce5-+) 26... Bf8 27.Re1 Rxa2 28.g4 Rxb2 29.Rxe6 (29.g5 Rxb7 30.Rxe6 Nd8 31.Rxf8+ Nxf8 32.Re8 Bh3 33.Rxf8+ Kxh7 34.Kg1 Ne6 35.Re8 Kg6-+; 29.Nd6 Bxd6 30.Rxe6 Nce5 31.Re8+ Bf8 32.Rexf8+ Nxf8 33.Rxf8+ Kxh7 34.Rxc8 Kg6 35.Rc5 Nxg4-+) 29...Rxc2 30.g5 Nce5 31.Rxe5 Nxe5 32.Rxf8+ Kxh7 33.f7 Bxb7 My fantasy line. 34.Rh8+ Kg6 35.f8Q d4+ 36. Kg1 Nf3+ 37.Kh1 Nxh2+ 38.Kg1 Rg2+ 39.Kh1 Rf2+ 40.Kg1 Rxf8 41.Rxf8 Nf3+ 42.Kf2 Nxg5-+; **A2b32**) 20.Rxg7+ 20...Qxg7 21.Qxg5 Nc6 22.Ne4 (22.Rf7 Qxe5 23.Qh6 Qh8; 22.Nxb5 Ndx5 23.Nxd6 Qxg6 24.Qf4 Bd7 25.Ne4 Kg7-+) 22...Qxe5 23.Qh4 Qh8 24.Rf8 + Nxf8 25.Nf6+ Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Ne5 27.g7 Nh7 28.Qd8+ Kxg7 29.Qxd6 Nf7 30.Qg3+ Kf6 31.Qh4+ Nhg5 32.Qf4+ Ke7 33.h4 Nh7-+;

**B**) 18.e5 A move given a question mark by Mikhalchishin for the wrong reason. 18... Nxe5 The move Mikhalchishin gives in the 1981 Informant. His annotation goes 18.e5? Nxe5 19.Ne4 Nf3!+ 20.Kh1 Qg6-+ . But this can be vastly improved by 19.Rxf6! transposing to 19.e5!!, thus 19.Ne4 is a ??. If Mikhalchishins 18...Nxe5 is to be believed then his assessment is wrong and White is probably winning with 19.Rxf6!. My question to the world is can White win against other Black responses to 18.e5? I will leave it to the reader to decide whether you will play 18.Rxf6 or 18.e5.;

**C**) 18.Rxf6! Why not just take the Queen? 18...Bxf6





**C1)** 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Rf1 (20.h4 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Ne5 22.h5 Bd7 23.Rf1 Rc8 unclear, Nunn.) 20...Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Ne5 23.Qd2<sup>2</sup> Parma;

**C2)** 19.e5!!N Midnight by the Morphy watch. Another novelty of mine, not given in New In Chess YB. 48. The clearance sacrifice gives white e4 for his Knight, and d3 for the Bishop. In the Gaspariants game the Bishop goes to h5 to protect the g6 pawn. The Bishop from d3 allows the h pawn to skate to h5, to protect g6. It now becomes evident that Whites Queen is a most powerful piece against Blacks disorganized and undeveloped minors. A recent game of mine, with Manitoba Chess Champion, Kevin Gentes went down this path! It was the 2nd game of a three game match, which Kevin won with a score of 2 wins 1 loss. After having won the first game, in a hard fought Tarrasch, Kevin tried the Gothenburg,with Black! against me. If he wins, not only would he win the match, but he would have made me look pretty silly! Fortunately, I prevailed against a move first suggested by Fletcher Baragar about a week and a half before our game. In that time I had been working out all the nuances to Baragars suggestion, so I was secretly pleased when Gentes chose 20...Nf8. For the other possibilities I have provided some fantasy variations to give the reader an idea of the possibilities.



**C2a)** 19...Nxe5 Here is the position Mikhalchishin allowed by transposition with his 18. e5 Nxe5 note. 20.Ne4 Be7 21.Be8 Bd7 (21...Nbc6 22.Rf1 Bd7 Blacks army is all puffed

up. 23.Rf8+! With a quick mate.) 22.Qh3 **C2a1**) 22...d5 23.Ng3 Nxc6 (23...Bxe8 24.Qxe6+ Kh8 25.Qh3+ Kg8 26.Qc8 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Nxc6 28.Qxe8+ Nf8 29.Rf1+-) 24.Bxd7 Nxd7 25.Qxe6+ Kh7 26.Nf5 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Ndf8 28.Qf6 Rd7 29.h4 Re8 30.h5 Ne5 31.Qh6 + Kg8 32.Re1 Ba7 33.Qf6 Rh7 34.g4 Bb8 35.Nh6+ Rxh6 36.Qxh6 Nf7 37.Qg6+ Nxc6 38.Rxe8+ Nf8 39.Rxb8 Nd6 40.Rd8 Nc4 41.g5 Nxb2 42.g6 Kg7 43.Rb8 b5 44.Rb7+ Kg8 45.h6 Nxc6 46.Rg7+ Kh8 47.Rxc6+-; **C2a2**) 22...Bc8 23.Rf1 Nxc6 (23...Nbc6 24.Rf8+ Kxf8 25.Qh8+ Rg8 26.g7+ Kxe8 27.Qxg8+ Kd7 28.Qh7 d5 29.Nf2 b6 30.g8Q Bb7 31.Qgg7+-) 24.Rf6 Bxf6 25.Nxf6+ Kf8 26.Bxc6 Rxc6 27.Qh8+ Kf7 28.Qxc8+-; **C2a3**) 22...Bxe8 23.Qxe6+ Kh8 24.Qh3+ Kg8 25.Qc8 Nxc6 26.Qxe8+ Kh7 27.Rf1 Rg8 28.Rf7+ Kh8 29.Nf6 I tried very hard not to use too many exclaims in this article. Difficult indeed, as the Gothenburg is full of tremendous tactics. 29...Bxf6 30.Qe3 Rg7 31.Rxf6 (31.Qh3 + Kg8 32.Rxf6 Nc6 33.Qe6+ Kh7 34.Rf3 Re7 35.Rf7+ Rxf7 36.Qxf7+ Kh6 37.Qxb7+-) 31...Nd7 32.Qh6+ Rh7 33.Qxc6 Rg8 34.Qf5 Nxf6 35.Qxf6+ Rhg7 36.Qh6+ Rh7 37.Qxd6 +-;

**C2b**) 19...Bxe5 20.Bd3 **C2b1**) 20...Nf6 21.Rf1 Nbd7 22.Qg5 b5 23.Ne4 Ne8 24.h4 Bb7 (24...d5 25.Ng3 Bf6 26.Qe3 Re7 27.Nh5 e5 28.Bf5 Bg7 29.Nxc6 Nxc6 30.Qg5 Nf6 31.Bxc8 Rxc8 32.Rxf6 Rcc7 33.h5 Ne8 34.Rf3 e4 35.Qxd5+ Kg7 36.Qd4+ Kh6 With mate in 7.) 25.h5 d5 26.Ng3 Bd4+ 27.Kh1 Bf6 28.Qg4 Re7 29.h6 Ne5 30.Qg5 Nd7 (30...Nxd3 31.Rxf6 Nxf6 32.Qxf6 Nf2+ 33.Kg1 Rae8 34.Nh5 And mate is unavoidable.) 31.Rxf6 Ndx6 32.Nh5 Nxc6 33.Qxe7 Neg7 34.g4 Re8 35.Qf7+ Kh8 Mate in 5; **C2b2**) 20...Nc5 21.Rf1 Nc6 22.h4 Bd7 23.h5 Bd4+ 24.Kh1 Ne5 25.Qg5 Nxc6 26.cxd3 Bc6 27.Ne2 Bxb2 28.Nf4 Rf8 29.Rb1 Rf5 30.Qd8+ Rf8 31.Qh4 Nf3 32.Qg4 Rxf4 33.Qxf4 Be5 34.Qg4 Nd4 35.h6 Rd7 36.Rb4 Nf5 37.Qg5 b5 38.Kg1 a5 39.Qc1 Bd4+ 40.Kh2 Rc7 41.Rxd4 Nxd4 42.Qg5+-; **C2b3**) 20...Nf8 Baragars suggestion. 21.Rf1 Nbd7 After Gentes chose this move I was on my own. My attention had been drawn to 21...Nc6. 22.Qh4! Nxc6 23.Bxc6 Rxc6 24.Qd8+ Kh7 25.Ne4 b5 26.Rf3 Bg7 27.Ng5+ Rxc6 28.Qxc6 Ne5 29.Qh5+ Kg8 30.Qe8+ Kh7 31.Rh3+ Bh6 32.Qh5 After this game, Gentes, with white in game 3, took full advantage of my positional mistakes, in a Tarrasch type of game, to win the match.; **C2b4**) 20...Nc6 21.Rf1 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 **C2b41**) 22...Nde5 23.Ne4 Nxd3 24.cxd3 Be5 (24...Bd7 25.Rf7 Nd8 26.Rxc6+ Bxc6 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Nxd6 a5 29.h4 a4 30.h5 Ra5 31.Kg1 Bd4+ 32.Kf1 Bc6 33.g4 Rc5 34.h6 Rg5 35.g7+ Bxc6 36.hxc6+ Rxc6 37.Qh8 +-+-) 25.h4 Ne7 26.h5 Nf5 27.Qg5 Bd7 28.g4 Ne7 29.Nf6+ Bxf6 30.Rxf6 Rf8 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.g5 Bc6+ 34.Kh2 Bd5 35.b3 b5 36.Kh3 a5 37.Kg4 Nc6 38.d4 Ne7 39.h6 Rxc6 40.Qxe7 Be4 41.Qxd6+-; **C2b42**) 22...Bxc3 23.bxc3 Nde5 24.h4 Bd7 25.h5 Ne7 26.Qg5 Nf5 27.Be4 (27.Kg1!? Re8 28.g4 Ne7 29.Rf6 Bc6 30.Kf1 Nxd3 31.cxd3 Nd5 32.h6 Nxf6 33.Qxf6 Rge7 34.g5 Bb5 35.Ke2 e5 36.h7+ Rxh7 37.gxh7+ Kxh7 38.Qf7+ Kh8 39.g6 and wins.) 27...d5 28.Rxf5 Nxc6 29.h6 exf5 30.Qf6 Re7 31.Qxc6+ Kf8 32.h7 +- It seems odd that after capturing the queen that 19.e5!! has never been mentioned. ;

**C3**) 19.Be2!? Black must find an improvement in the following moves. 19...Ne5 20.Bh5 Bd7 21.Rf1 Be7 22.Rf7 Nxf7 23.gxf7+ Rxf7 24.Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Qh7+ A draw was agreed here between Gaspariants-Eidlin, Moscow 1971. In the final position I believe white is winning; **C3a**) 25...Ke8 26.h4 Nc6 27.h5 Bf8 28.h6 Ne7 (28...Ne5 29.Qg8 Nf7 30.h7+-)

29.Qh8 Kf7 30.e5 d5 31.h7+-; **C3b**) 25...Kf8 26.h4 Bf6 27.e5 Bxe5 28.Ne4 d5 29.Ng5 Ke8 30.c3 Bd6 31.h5 Kd8 32.h6 Be7 33.Qg7+- So with 19.Bxd7!? Parma, 19.Be2! Gaspariants, or 19.e5!! Kirton, we see an advantage for white against 17...Qf6. Can you save The Gothenburg? ]

**18.gxf7+ Kxf7 19.Rf1+ Bf6 20.Qh7+ Kf8**



20...Ke8 was refuted in the game Gheorghiu-Browne, Mar del Plata 1971. Theory now considered it to risky to play on after 20...Kf8, and that white should take the draw, right now. [20...Ke8 21.Qg6+

**A)** 21...Kf8 22.e5 dxe5 23.Ne4 **A1)** 23...Qb6+ 24.Kh1 **A1a)** 24...axb5 25.Nxf6 Ke7 26.Qe8+ Kd6 27.Qxc8 Nxf6 28.Rxf6 Kd5 (28...Nd7 29.Qxa8 Nxf6 30.Qf8+ Kd5 31.Qxf6± Gheorghiu and Browne, Mar del Plata, 1971. The players agreed a draw here, although white is much better.) 29.Rf1! Qc6 30.Rd1+ Kc4 (30...Ke4 31.Qf8+-; 30...Kc5 31.Qf8+-) 31.b3+ Kc3 32.Qd8 Kb2 33.c4 bxc4 34.Qd2+ Ka3 35.Qc3 Ra6 36.bxc4+ Ka4 37.Qb3+ Ka5 38.Rb1 Qc5 39.Qc3+ Ka4 40.Qc2+-; **A1b)** 24...Ke7 25.Rxf6 axb5 26.Rf7+ Kd8 27.Qg5+ Kc7 28.Qxe5+ Kd8 29.Qg5+ Kc7 30.Qg3+ Kd8 31.Rg7 e5 (31...Qd4 32.Rg8+ Ke7 33.Qg5+-) 32.Qg5+ Kc7 33.Qxe5+ Kd8 34.Rg8+-; **A2)** 23...axb5 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Nxf6+ Nxf6 26.Rxf6 Qd4+ (26...Qd1+ 27.Rf1 Qd4+ 28.Kh1 Qd8 29.Qg6+ Kh8 30.h3+-) 27.Kf1+- as there is no perpetual.;

**B)** 21...Ke7 22.Rxf6 Qb6+ 23.Rf2 axb5 24.Qf7+ Kd8 25.Qxe6 Ne5 (25...Nf8 26.Qf6+ Kd7 27.Nd5 Qd8 28.Qg7+ Kc6 29.Qc3+ Kd7 30.Rf7+-) 26.Qg8+ Kd7 27.Nd5 Qd8 (27...Qa5 28.b4!) 28.Rf8+-]

**21.e5!**

Preventing the Knight from occupying e5. Beliavskys idea of 21.Be2 only draws after 21...Nc6 22.Bh5 Nde5. This clearance sacrifice is a common theme throughout the Gothenburg. [21.Bxd7 Nxd7 22.e5?! (22.Qh8+=) 22...dxe5 23.Ne4 Qe7 24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.g4? (25.Qh7+) 25...Qf8 26.Qh5+ Ke7 27.g5 Qg7 28.Kh1 b5 29.gxf6+ Nxf6 30.Rxf6

Bb7 31.Qf3 Rg8 32.Qa3+ Kd7 33.Qd6+ Kc8 34.Qxe6+ Kb8 35.Qxe5+ Ka8-+ Milan Matulovic-Dragoljub Ciric,Sarajevo,1966]

**21...dxe5 22.Be2!N**



After this discovery white is winning by force. [22.Ne4 Qb6+! (22...Qe7 23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Ng5+ Kg6 25.Bd3+- V. Nikolic-Z. Nikolic,Yugoslavia,1972) 23.Rf2 axb5 24.g4 Ra4 25.g5 Rxe4 26.Qxe4 Qd4 27.Qg6 Qg4+ 28.Kf1 Nc6! 29.Qh6+ Kf7 30.Qh7+ Ke8 31.Qg8+ Ke7 32.gxf6+ Nxf6 33.Qxc8 Nd5 34.Ke1 Qg5-+ Nunn.]

**22...Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Ke8 24.Qg8+ Ke7 25.Rd1!!**



This was my most difficult find in refuting the Gothenburg.

**25...Nf8** [25...Qd8 26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.Rf1 Zug!; 25...Nc6 26.Bh5 Nd4 27.Ne4 Nf8 28.Qf7+ Kd8 29.Qxf6+ Kd7 30.Qxe5+-]

**26.Ne4 Nbd7 27.Nxf6! Kxf6 28.h4 Qe3**



[28...Ng6 29.h5

**A)** 29...Ne7 30.Qh8+ Kf7 31.h6+-;

**B)** 29...Ngf8 30.h6 Ng6 31.Qg7+ Kf5 (31...Kg5 32.h7 Qd8 33.Bd3+-) 32.Bd3+ e4 33. Bxe4+ Kxe4 34.Qxg6+ Kf4 35.g3+ Ke5 36.Qg5+ Ke4 37.Qf4#;

**C)** 29...Ndf8 30.Rf1+ Ke7 31.hxg6 Nxc6 32.Qf7+ (32.Qxg6 White should win here also.) 32...Kd6 33.Rd1+ Kc6 (33...Kc5 34.b4+ Qxb4 35.Qc7#) 34.Bf3+ Kb5 35.Rd3 Qc5 (35...Qa5 36.Rd5+ exd5 37.Qxd5+ Kb6 38.Qd8+ Kb5 39.c4+ Kb4 40.Qd6+ Qc5 41.Qd2 + Kxc4 42.Be2#) 36.Bxb7 Ra7 (36...Rb8 37.Rb3+ Ka5 38.Ra3+ Kb5 39.Be4 Bb7 40.Qd7 + Kb6 41.Rb3+ Ka5 42.Qd2+ Ka4 43.Ra3+ Qxa3 44.Qd7+ Ka5 45.Qc7+ Ka4 46.bxa3 +-) 37.Qe8+ Kb6 38.Rb3+ Ka5 39.Qd8+ Ka4 40.Bc6+ Qxc6 41.Ra3+ Kb5 42.Qa5+ Kc4 43.Rc3+ Kd4 44.Qb4+ Kd5 45.Rd3#;

**D)** 29...Nf4 30.h6 Qf2 31.Qg7+ Kf5 32.Bg4+ Ke4 33.Bf3+ Ke3 34.Qg5 e4 (34...Qxc2 35.Qg3 and wins.) 35.h7 exf3 36.Rd3+ Ke2 37.Rxf3 Qe1+ (37...Qxg2+ 38.Qxg2+ Nxc2 39.Rg3 b5 40.Rxg2+ Kf1 41.h8Q Bb7 42.Qh2 and white wins yet again.) 38.Kh2 e5 39. h8Q Kd1 40.Qhh4 Qe2 41.Qgg4 Nb6 42.Rf1+ Kxc2 43.Qxe2+ Nxe2 and white mates in 8 moves. 44.Qe4+ Kd2 45.Qb4+ Kd3 46.Rf3+ Kc2 47.Qe4+ Kd2 48.Qd3+ Ke1 49.Qb1+ Nc1 50.Qxc1+ Ke2 51.Re3+ Kf2 52.Qe1#]

**29.Bh5 Ke7 30.Qf7+ Kd8 31.Qxf8+ Kc7 32.Qd6+ Kd8 33.Rf1 Qh6 34.g4 a5**



[34...b5 35.g5 Qh8 36.g6 Bb7+ 37.Kg1 Qh6 (37...Rc8 38.Rf7 Qe8 39.g7 Rc6 40.Rxd7+ Kc8 41.Bxe8+-) 38.Rf7 Qc1+ 39.Bd1 Qe3+ 40.Kh2+-]

**35.g5 Qh8 36.g6 Ra6 37.Rf8+ Qxf8 38.Qxf8+ Nxf8 39.g7**

A nice picture to end the Gothenburg with.



1-0

## 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qf3

**Boris Spassky – Nikolai Krogius**

**Najdorf Sicilian [B95]**

**Traning tourney masters & candidates Leningrad, 1954**

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qf3**

In those days, this move had not yet been superseded by 7 f4. White plans to use his queen on the kingside where it may be able to attack the g- and h-pawns.

**7...Be7**



This line was one of those covered in Boleslavsky's theoretical survey. Instead 7...h6! was played by Krogius in the same tournament against Rovner: If 8 Bxf6 Qxf6 9 Qxf6 gxf6 while if 8 Be3 e5! and Boleslavsky said the Knight must retreat to b3 or e2, because 9 Nf5 is bad on account of 9...g6. So that game continued 8 Bh4 Be7 9 0-0-0 Qc7 10 Qg3 Nbd7 11 Bd3 and here Black played the risky move 11...b5. White sacrificed the bishop on b5 for a strong attack, but ultimately lost the game.

**8 0-0-0 Qc7**



Inaccurate says Boleslavsky. 8...Nbd7 is a better move, he said, as played in the game Neyding-Shamkovich, RSFSR Championship 1954: 9 Rg1 (not 9 Bc4 Ne5 or 9 Qg3 Nh5 10 Bxe7 Nxg3 11 Bxd8 Nxh1 12 Bh4 g5) 9...Qc7 10 g4 b5 11 Bxf6 Nxf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 Qe3 Nb6 14 f4 Bd7 15 f5 e5 16 Nb3 Rc8. Boleslavsky considered that Black had the better of it here since his knight is watching d5, but unfortunately the magazine did not give the continuation of this game. 17 f6!? is attractive but quite possibly bad in view of the exchange sacrifice 17...b4 (17...gxf6 18 gxf6 Bxf6; 17...Bf8) 18 Bxa6 bxc3 19 Bxc8 cxb2+ 20 Kb1 Bxc8 21 fxe7 Nc4.

**9 Qg3 Nc6 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 f4 h6 12 Bxf6 gxf6**



If 12...Bxf6 13 e5 dxe5 14 Ne4 with a strong attack, said Boleslavsky.

**13 Qg7 Rf8 14 Bc4**

Boleslavsky said that Black was in a difficult position. The attempt to win a piece by...



**14...d5 15 exd5 Qxf4+ 16 Kb1 Qxc4**

...brought Black disaster after...

**17 d6!**



The rest of the game could be found without comment in the games section later in the issue. The end was:

**17...Qf4**

17...Bd8 is possible but White answers 18 d7+! Bxd7 19 Rxd7 and Rhd1.

**18 dxe7 Kxe7 19 h4 Rb8 20 Rhf1 Qe5 21 Ka1 Rb4 22 Qxh6 f5 23 Qg5+ f6 24 Qd2 c5 25 Rfe1 Rd4 26 Qf2 Rxd1+ 27 Rxd1 Bb7 28 Re1 Be4 29 g4 Qd4 30 Qg3 Qd6 31 Qf2 Qd4 32 Qf1**



After a repetition to gain time, the young Spassky tries another tack.

**32...Rb8 33 a3 Bxc2**

If 33...c4 Spassky would probably have chosen 34 gxf5 Bxc2 35 Qf3! invading via c6 or g3-g7.

**34 gxf5 e5 35 Qxa6 Qd7 36 Rg1 Bb3 37 Ne4 Rf8 38 Rg7+ 1-0**

## 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7

**Paetz,E (2467) - Yudasin,L (2692) [B96]**

**66th New York Masters New York (2), 29.07.2003**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Qd2 h5 11.O-O-O Bd7 12.Kb1 O-O-O 13.Qd3 Be7 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Qh3 Qc5 16.Rhf1 Kb8 17.f5



**17...Qe5**

A very thematic idea in this opening, as it's nearly impossible to evict the queen from e5. Both players had used very little time up to this point, showing very strong understanding of such Sicilian structures. Now Paetz begins a long-winded plan to kick the queen off of e5, but will this plan take too long??

**18.Bc4 Bc8 19.Bb3 Rdg8 20.Rde1 Bd8 21.Nd1**

The knight will go to f2 and then to d3 to push the queen out of e5. However this leaves black with plenty of time to drum something up...

**21...Ba5 22.Re3 Rg5 23.Nf2 exf5 24.Nd3**

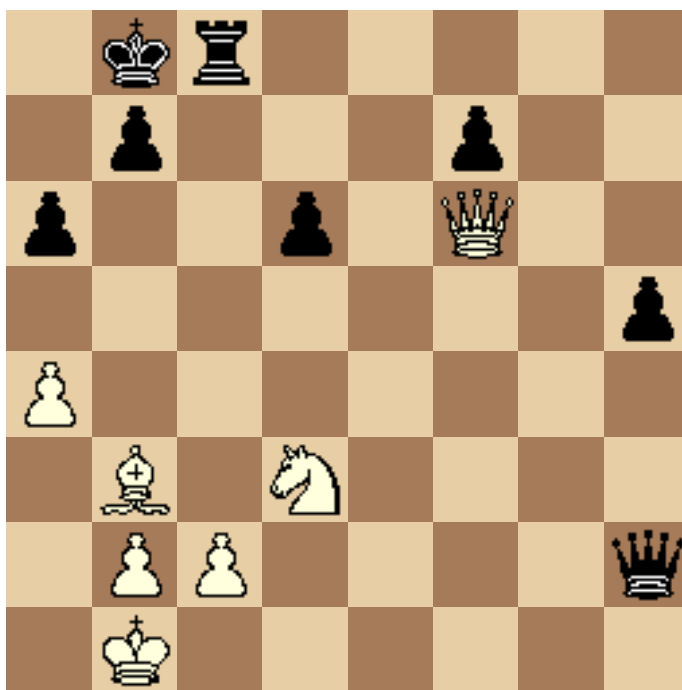


24...Qd4 25.exf5 Rxf5

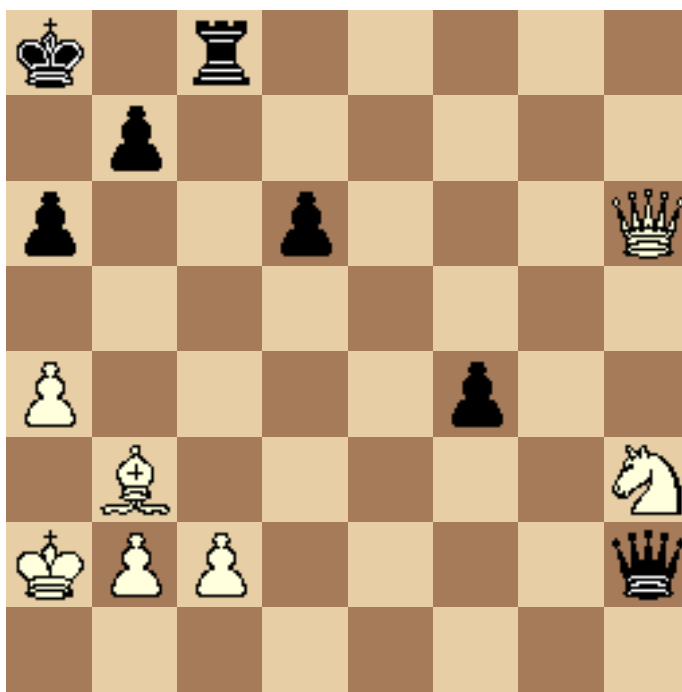


A tactic based on the undefended position of the white rook on e3. Unfortunately for Yudasin, he forgot to take into account the undefended position of his bishop on a5. As is usual for strong GM's, things work out anyway, as black wins enough pawns to counteract the loss of two minor pieces for the rook. We have a long and exciting struggle up ahead, as Yudasin will try to use the pawns in the endgame, while Paetz tries to use her pieces to attack the king in the middlegame.

26.Rxf5 Bxf5 27.Qxf5 Qxe3 28.Qxa5 Qg1+ 29.Qe1 Qxg2 30.a4 Qxh2 31.Qe7 Rc8 32.Qxf6



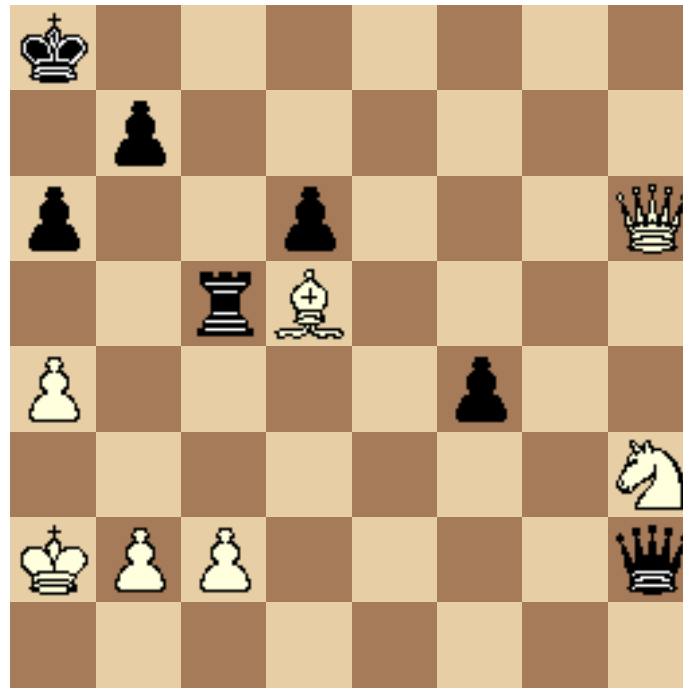
32...h4 33.Nf4 h3 34.Ka2 Ka8 35.Qh6 f5 36.Nxh3 f4



37.Qh7

White had a very interesting attempt at this point, of which I made the bold claim that it was completely winning. I was wrong as is often the case.... I saw that after 37.Qxd6!? Qxh3 38. Bd5, black has problems, as white is threatening Qxa6+. If black plays the blunder 38...Ka7, white wins with 39. Qe7! Rb8 40. Qc5 Ka8 41. Qb6 Qf1 42. c4. The bad news is that on move 38....black should forget about the a6 pawn, and simply defend b7 with 38....Qh7, giving black a healthy advantage.

**37...Rc5 38.Bd5**



This move forces a draw, but most likely white had no better choice, as the knight on h3 was very unpleasantly pinned. When black captures the bishop on d5, white immediately picks up the rook with Qg8+.

**38...Rxd5 39.Qg8+ Ka7 40.Qxd5 Qxh3 41.Qd4+ Ka8 42.Qxf4 1/2-1/2**

An exciting, action packed game by two very fast players! They both had over 10 minutes on the clock at the end of this one!

## Opening: **B96 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation**

### **Introduction:**

In the Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation an super-aggressive line for the blacks that are **7.f4 Qc7** , *without* still developing Nbd7 exists, that is beaten. He is very recommendable for those chess players who please of the attack game, with many tactical capabilities. In front of her, 8.f5, that takes to very acute situations, of very difficult treatment for the blacks has appeared in games of high level the advance. Dvoiris is one of the many Great forts Masterful Russians who fight today in the international scene. Their investigations on openings usually are very interesting. Let us see, but, the newness that made in this game:

### **Dvoiris, S (2590) - Lesiege, A (2553) [ B96 ] MK Cafe Cup Open To Koszalin POL (7), 10.08.1999**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.f5?**

Very little habitual, and very interesting to prove. Edición is not mentioned in the Yugoslav Encyclopedia á., that indicates [ 8.Bd3; 8.Bxf6; 8.Qe2; 8.Qf3 ]

### **8... Nc6**

Or [ 8... Be7 9.Qf3 11.Qxd4 Bd7 12.Bc4 b5 13.fxe6 fxe6 14.Bb3 Qc5 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Qd3 Qg5+ (9.Qd3 Nc6 10,0-0-0 Nxd4 17.Kb1 h5 18.e5!± Niedermaier - Degenhardt, BL9091 1991/GER-chT ) 9... Nc6 10,0-0-0 Nxd4 11.Rxd4 b5 12.Qg3 e5 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.Rd3 Bb7 with complex position, Conquest - Zygouris, Iraklion 1992 ]

### **9.fxe6 fxe6**



**10.Bc4! N**

**A very important newness**, that it deserves a very lengthy analysis. [ the well-known was 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Be2 Be7 12.e5 dxe5 13.Bh5+ g6 14.Bxf6 typical Bxf6 15.0-0÷ with one position of the Gotemburgo variant. Vitolins-Kengis/Latvia 1975 ]

**10... Nxd4**

[ 10... Nd8 11.Bb3 with initiative ]

**11.Qxd4 Be7 12.Bb3 b5**

[ better Parece 12... Qa5 touching to the Bg5. ]

**13.a4! Rb8!**

[ better Parece 13... bxa4 although after 14.Bxa4+ Bd7 15.Bxd7+ Qxd7 the 16,0-0-0 white is left with the initiative ]

**14.axb5 axb5 15.Ra7 Qb6**

[ did not save 15 Either... Qc5 16.Qxc5 dxc5 17.Bf4 Rb7 18.Rxb7 Bxb7 19.Nxb5 Bxe4 20.Nc7+± ]

**16.Nxb5!+ - Bd7**



[ 16... Qxd4 17.Nxd4 ]

**17.Nc7+ Kf7 18.Nxe6 Bxe6 19.Bxe6+ Kxe6 20.Qc4+ d5 21.exd5+ Kf5 22.Rxe7  
Kxg5 23.h4+ 1-0**

## Hellers, F. - Ivanov, I, World Open 1992 B97

The players entered one of the most complicated subvariations of the Najdorf. Hellers proceeded to sacrifice a bishop in a frontal assault against Ivanov's uncastled king. But Ivanov was unfazed, and insisted on defending actively. Soon Hellers sacked, or lost, an additional Exchange. In any case, the attack seemed to be breaking through. But the unflappable Ivanov threw back the extra rook in order to get the queens off the board. Suddenly, Hellers was up a pawn. But his pieces were woefully unprepared for the pawn race which ensued.

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5**

[Hellers selects the sharpest continuation, probably because Ivanov is known more as a natural player than as a theoretician.]

**6... e6 7 f4 Qc7**



[Less often played than 7 ... Qb6 (the Poisoned Pawn), 7 ... Be7 (the main line), or 7 ... b5 (the Polugaevsky) but just as complicated. Kasparov's adoption of 7 ... Qc7 has led to a renewed investigation of systems which dispense with the early ... Be7.]

**8 Qf3**

[A solid alternative is 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 Be2. At Tilburg 1989, Ivanchuk and Ljubojevic both tried 8 Qe2!? against Kasparov, but Black's position was reasonable after 8 ... Nc6! 9 O-O-O Nxd4 10 Rxd4 Be7.]

**8... Nbd7**

[Generally considered a little too risky is 8 ... b5 in view of 9 f5! or 9 O-O-O b4 (more reliable is 9 ... Bb7) 10 e5 Bb7 11 Ncb5 Qb8 12 Qh3!]

## 9 O-O-O b5

[Black could still have transposed back to the main line with 9 ... Be7 10 g4, etc.]

## 10 Bxb5

[It is reasonable to seek a sacrificial solution before Black gets ... Bb7 in. But out of control would be 10 e5 Bb7 11 Qh3 dxe5 12 Nxe6: after 12 ... fxe6 13 Qxe6+ Be7 14 Nxb5!? axb5 15 Bxb5 O-O-O! Black is fine.]

## 10... axb5 11 e5

[It does not seem to matter whether White plays this move or Nxb5 first.]

## 11... Bb7 12 Ndx b5 Qb6!



[In Korsunskij - Konovalov, USSR 1977, Black lost after 12 ... Qc8 13 Qe2 dxe5 14 fxe5 Nd5 15 Ne4 Qc6? (forced was 15 ... Ra6) 16 Rxd5! The text keeps the queen active.]

## 13 Qe2 h6!!

[Better than 13 ... dxe5 14 fxe5 Nd5 15 Ne4 (not 15 Nxd5 Bxd5 16 Rxd5?! exd5 17 e6 Nf6!) Be7 16 Ned6+ Kf8 17 Bxe7+ Kxe7 18 Rhf1.]

## 14 Bxf6

[A tough decision. On 14 exf6 hxg5 15 fxg7 Bxg7 the active dark-squared bishop is more consequent than the loss of the d-pawn. In this line, White can try, after 14 exf6 hxg5, 15 f5, but then the cold-blooded 15 ... Nxf6! 16 fxe6 Be7 holds.]

**14... gxf6 15 Nxd6+ Bxd6 16 Rxd6 Qb4! 17 Qd2**

[The pressure on the f-pawn was quite inconvenient for White. Hellers chooses the only line which maintains the initiative. If instead 17 Rhd1, then Black obtains nasty threats with 17 ... Qxf4+ 18 Kb1 Nxe5! 19 Qb5+ Bc6 20 Rxc6 O-O.]

**17... Nb6 18 a3**

[Not 18 Rd1 O-O and 19 a3 can be met by 19 ... Rxa3.]

**18... Qa5 19 Qd4 Nc8 20 exf6!?**



[A tempting combination, and the rook was in trouble anyway. Probably better was 20 Rd7! Bc6 21 Rd1 O-O! (not the greedy 21 ... Bxd7? 22 Qxd7+ Kf8 23 exf6 Na7 24 Rd3!! Rh7 25 Rg3 Qd8 - 25 ... Qc5 26 b4 - 26 Qb7) 22 Rd8 with a complex position.]

**20... Nxd6 21 Qxd6 Qd8 22 Qb4 Bc6**

[Keeping the knight out of e4 and b5 as long as possible.]

**23 Qc5**

[Designed to set up a pin on the bishop, and activate his knight. Now 23 ... Ra6? and 23 ... Qc7? both lose to 24 Nb5.]

**23... Rc8 24 Rd1 Qxf6 25 Nb5**

[The vicious check on d6 is coming - 25 ... Qe7 26 Nd6+ Kf8 27 Qc3 wins.]

**25... Qxf4+ 26 Kb1 Qg5!!**



[Black can afford to give back the whole rook, as in the ending his rook on h8 will become a monster!]

**27 Nd6+ Kf8 28 Qxg5**

[White will be a pawn up after this, but his pieces will be disorganized in the coming battle of majorities. 28 Qc3 would recover the material without activating Black's remaining rook, although White's queenside pawn structure will be ruined, and after 28 ... Qg7 (not 28 ... Ke7 29 Qb4) 29 Nxc8 Qxc3 30 bxc3 Bxg2 Black stands better.]

**28... hxg5 29 Nxc8 Rxh2 30 g3 f5 31 Nd6 g4**

[A classic example of the superiority of the bishop over the knight when pawns are on opposite sides of the board. Ivanov plans to either sac the f-pawn to free the g-pawn, or to win the g-pawn with his rook.]

**32 Re1 f4! 33 gxf4 g3 34 Nc4 g2 35 Ne3 Rh3!**



[It is critical to retain rooks on the board, so that Black's more active pieces can win the White f-pawn and restrain the queenside pawns. Pointless would be 35 ... Rh1? 36 Nxg2 Bxg2 37 Rxh1 Bxh1 38 c4, etc.]

**36 Nxg2 Bxg2 37 Kc1**

[He was never threatening the e-pawn: 37 Rxe6?? Rh1+ 38 Ka2 Bd5+.]

**37... Kf7 38 Rd1 Rh4 39 Rd4 Kf6 40 a4**

[Finally White tries to get his pawns moving, but it is much too late.]

**40... Kf5 41 a5 e5 42 Rd2 Rh1+ 43 Rd1 exf4 44 Rxh1 Bxh1 45 Kd2 Kg4 0 - 1**

# Ljubojevic,L - Milicevic,M Jugoslavija, 1974

18/499 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.  
Bxf6 gxf6 9.Be2 b5 10.Bh5 b4 11.Nce2 Bg7 12.f5 0-0



13.fxe6 fxe6 14.Nf4 Qe7 15.0-0 e5 16.Nf5 Qa7+ 17.Kh1 Bxf5 18.exf5 exf4 19.  
Bf3



19...Nd7 20.Bxa8 Qxa8 21.Qxd6 Ne5 22.Rxf4 a5 23.Rd1 Nf7 24.Qd5 Qa7 25.  
Qe6 Qb8 26.Rg4 Kh8 27.Rgd4 Ne5 28.h3 Qc7 29.R1d2 Bh6



**30.Rd8 Qf7** [30...Rxd8 31.Qxf6+ Kg8 (31...Bg7 32.Rxd8+ Qxd8 33.Qxd8+ Bf8 34.Qxf8#) 32.Rxd8+] **31.R2d7!! Qxe6** [31...Rxd8 32.Rxd8+ (32.Rxf7? Rd1+ 33.Kh2 Bf4 + 34.g3 Rd2+ 35.Kh1 Rd1+ 36.Kg2 Rd2+ 37.Kf1 Rd1+ 38.Ke2 Rd2+ 39.Ke1 Nf3+ 40.Kf1 Nh2+=) 32...Kg7 33.Re8 Qxe6 34.fxe6 Nc6 35.Rc8 Ne7 36.Rc7 Kf8 37.c3+-] **32.fxe6 Nxd7** [32...Nc6 33.Rxf8+ Bxf8 34.c4+-] **33.e7 Kg7 34.Rxf8 1-0**



## 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7

**V. Rajlich - W. Kelleher**  
**[B96/05] Sicilian: Najdorf**  
**12 June 1999, Vermont**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7  
9.O-O-O b5 10.e5 Bb7 11.Qh3 dxe5 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Qxe6+ Be7 14.Bxb5 axb5  
15.Nxb5 Qc6 16.Nd6+ Kd8 17.fxe5 Kc7 18.Kb1



Nunn's idea of 18.Kb1 answers Black's threat of ...Bxd6 and ...Qxg2, i.e. 18...Bxd6 19.Rxd6 Qxg2 20.Rhd1 when 20...Qxg5 isn't check. The alternative, however, is a forced draw after 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Qxe7 Rxa2 20.Nxb7 Ra1+ etc.,

**18...Bf8 19.Rhf1**

threatens 20.exf6, i.e. 20...Bxd6 21.Rxd6 Qxd6 22.Bf4.

**19...Nd5**



19...Ra6 doesn't work due to 20.exf6 Bxd6 21.fxf7. The critical line is 19...Ne4, when perhaps best is 20.Be7. It seems that White has comp but on the other hand he is down two pieces.

**20.Rf7 Bxd6 21.exd6+ Kb6 22.Qxd7**



22.Rxd7 Bc8 23.Be3+ Ka6 24.Rxd5 Bxd7 25.Qe4.

**22...Qxd7 23.Rxd7 h6 24.Bh4 g5**



It was the clearly best chance, sacing two pieces for a rook rather than giving up a fifth pawn for the piece,.

**25.Bf2+ Kc6 26.Rxb7 Nc3+ 27.bxc3 Kxb7 (58), 1/2-1/2.**

**Ljubojevic,L (2600) - Gelfand,B (2680)**  
**Novi Sad (ol), 1990**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7  
9.Be2 b5 10.f5 b4 11.fxe6 Ne5



White looks lost here (the Qf3 and the Nc3 are both en pris)

**12.Qxf6** "It's a miracle!" my kids would say.

**12...gxf6 13.Nd5** And white has a draw with Nxf6 and Nd5

**13...Qa7** [13...Qa5? 14.Nxf6+ Kd8 15.Nd5+ Ke8 16.Nb3 Qxd5 17.exd5 fxe6 18.Bh5+ Kd7 19.dxe6+ Kxe6 20.Nd4+ Kd7 21.0-0+/-]



14.Nxf6+ Kd8 15.Nd5+ Ke8 16.Nf6+ Kd8 17.Nd5+ 1/2-1/2

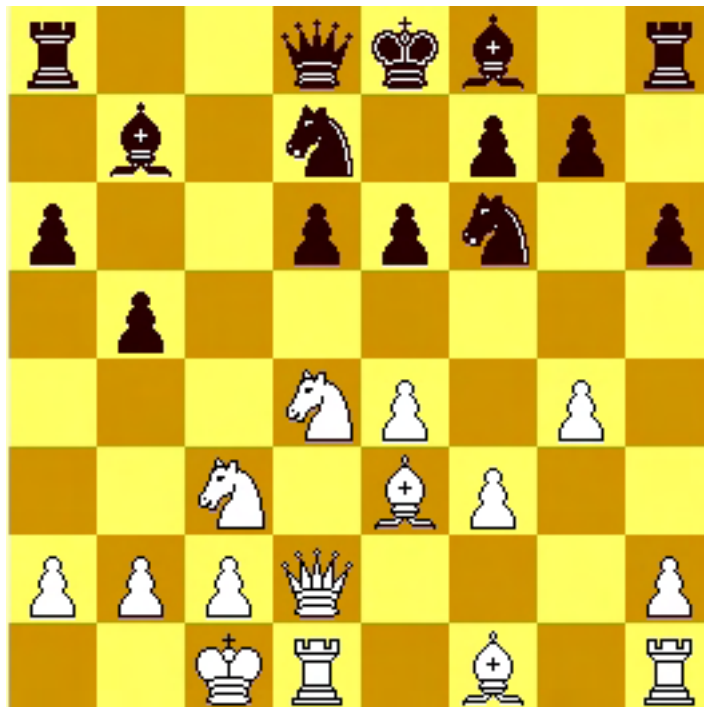
## 6. Be3 Variation

### Sicilian Defense - English Attack Theoreticals by IM Zoran Ilic

About two decades ago it was very popular to play the moves 6.Bg5 and 6.Bc4 in the Najdorf Sicilian. But now at the verge of the new millennium 6.Be3 is establishing itself firmly as the main reply against this Defense. New ideas are constantly being introduced for either side in all three major lines: 6...Ng4, 6...e6 and 6...e5.

This article deals with the main line of the system that continues with 6...e6. The basic position arises after the following moves:

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Qd2 b5 8.f3 Nbd7 9.g4 h6 10.0-0-0 Bb7**



Two interesting incidents have inspired me to write an article on this variation. At the recently finished European team Championship in Batumi - Georgia in 1999, two games were played (Grishuk – Ibrahimov in the first round, and Zulfugarli - Cvitan in the seventh round) which had identical courses all the way up to the 26<sup>th</sup> move. The white players, who applied the theoretical novelty 19.f5, won both games in the variation that

up till then enjoyed a solid reputation for Black.

The second, even more recent example happened at the super-tournament Corus - Wijk aan Zee January 2000. GM Van Wely demonstrated an enviable amount of persistency, consistency or obstinacy by playing this variation as much as five times. Still, this persistency and self-confidence did not receive the adequate reward. His result was discouraging - three losses and two drawn games.

These new examples from tournament practice in which the Black players endured bitter moments make it clear that Black by no means can underestimate White's attacking potentials. Balancing on the edge of the chasm in many variations Black has to demonstrate a high level of understanding of several issues: the cool-blooded and economical defense, the timely reaction in the center, and the creative leading of the counter-attacks on the queenside.

This article updates the material for two main and equally often played continuations: [11.Bd3 \(Variation I\)](#) and [11.h4 \(Variation II\)](#).

### Variation I 11.Bd3

White completes his development, concentrates his forces in the center and plans to endanger the Black king along the central files. Until recently the general opinion was that the immediate 11.h4 is a more efficient way of playing for White but Morozevich has shown in several games that 11.Bd3 is an equally dangerous continuation. After 11. Bd3 Black usually continues with **11...Ne5 (C)** trying to keep the position closed for as long as possible. The continuation **11...b4 (B)** is considered more risky but here too theory has still not given its final assessment of the sharp variations that are bound to arise. **11...Qa5 (A)** is a continuation that is still in its initial stage of investigation.

A. **11...Qa5** 12.Kb1 Ne5 13.a3 (13.Rhe1 b4 14.Nce2 d5 ½ Fedorov - Gavrikov, Katrineholm 1999) 13...Qc7 14.Rhe1 Be7 15.h4 Nfd7 16.g5 hxg5 17.hxg5 g6 18.f4 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Qxc4 20.f5 Rc8 21.Rh1 and White had a better game, Morozevich - Lutz, Frankfurt 1999

B. **11...b4**

Now we have a standard deviation [12.Nce2 \(B1\)](#) and [12.Na4 \(B2\)](#).

[B1 12.Nce2 d5 \(12...e5!?](#) 13.Nf5 d5 14.f4 dxe4 15.Bc4 Qc7 16.Bb3 Nc5 17.fxe5 Nxb3+ 18.axb3 Nd5 19.Nf4 Nxe3 20.Nxe3 Rd8 21.Qxd8+ Qxd8 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.Rd1+ Kc8 24.Nc4 with a more active endgame for White, Korneev - Prokopchuk, Russian Club Cup 1998) 13.exd5 (13.Ng3 Ne5 14.Qe2 Qc7 15.Kb1 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Nd5 17.Bc1 Be7 18.h4 Nxd3 19.Rxd3 a5 20.g5? Ba6 21.g6 Qb6 22.gxf7+ Kxf7 23.Nb3 a4 with the decisive

advantage for Black, Alzate - Herrera, Santa Clara 1999) 13...Bxd5 14.Nf4 Ne5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Kb1 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Qxc4



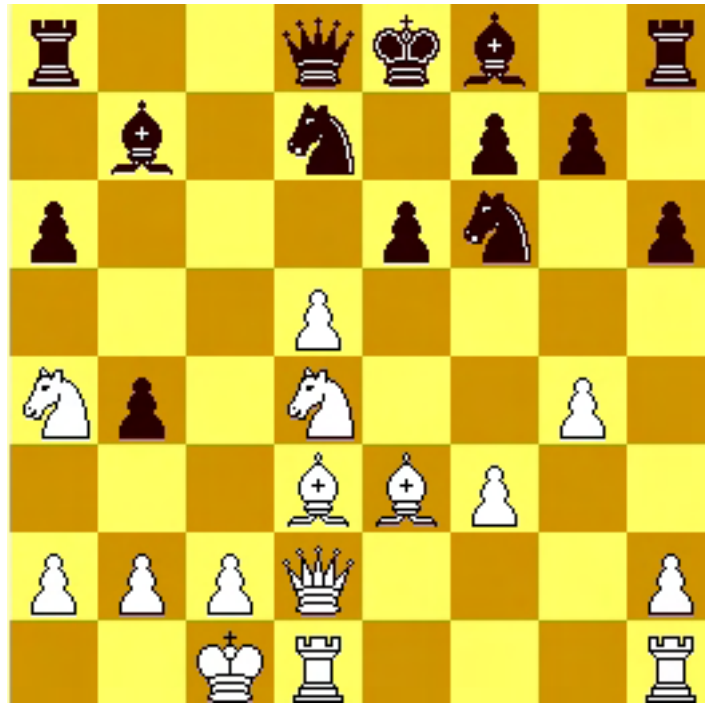
The Italian IM Arlandi was a successful defender of the black position in two games:

a. 18.Rhe1 Be7 19.h4 Rd8 20.Qd3 Qxd3 21.Rxd3 Nd5 with slightly better chances for Black, Sebastianelli - Arlandi, Torino 1998. White's play is certainly not a real test for the variation 11...b4 12.Nce2 d5.

b. 18.f4 Rd8 19.g5 Nd5 20.g6 Bc5! 21.gxf7+ Kxf7 22.Nc6 Qb5! (With the idea 23...Nc3+) 23.Ne5+ Kg8 24.a4 Qb7 25.Bxc5 Nc3+ 26.Qxc3 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 bxc3 and Black won, De la Villa Garcia - Arlandi, Saint Vincent 1999.

B2) 12.Na4 d5 13.exd5



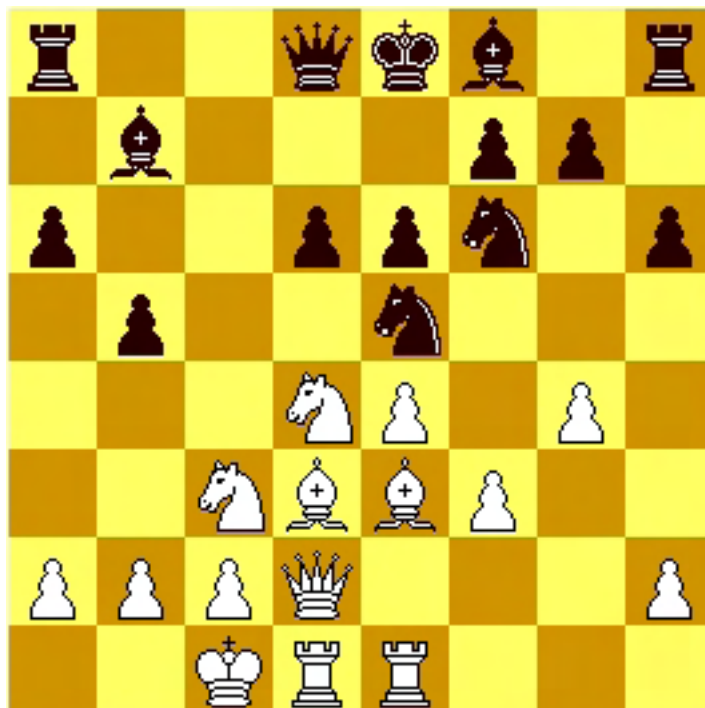


An important position arises after 11.Bd3. Black can now play without fear 13...Bxd5. But when he recaptures with 13...Nxd5?! the sacrifice 14.Nxe6! is dangerous. It is strange that in my databases I found only one example where Black plays 13...Bxd5 since this move obviously strengthens the defense of his king.

a. 13...Nxd5?! 14.Nxe6! fxe6 15.Bg6+ Ke7 16.Rhe1 Qa5 17.Bf4! N7f6 18.Qd4 Rc8 19.Qe5 Rc6 20.g5 hxg5 21.Bxg5 Kd7 22.Qb8! Bc8 23.Qa7+? (23.Bxf6!± ) 23...Qc7 24.Qe3 Qd6 25.Qa7+ Qc7 26.Qe3 Rd6 27.Nc5+ Kd8 28.Bxf6+ gxf6 29.Rxd5 Rxd5 30.Nxe6+ Bxe6 31.Qxe6 Qd6 0-1 Lugo - Van Wely, New York 1996.

b. 13...Bxd5 14.h4 Qa5 15.b3 0-0-0 16.Qe2 Kb7 17.g5 hxg5 18.hxg5 Nh5 19.Rhg1 g6 20.Kb1 Bd6 21.Nb2 Ne5 is unclear, Willemze - Van Kooten, Groningen 1998.

C. 11...Ne5 12.Rhe1



The most consistent continuation. Other options are less promising:

- a. 12.h4 b4 13.Nce2 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nf4?! Qa5! 16.Kb1? Nxf3! is winning for Black, Solodovnichenko - Najer, Polanica Zdroj 1999. Now 17.Nxf3 fails to 17... Nc3+
- b. 12.Kb1 b4 13.Na4 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Be2 Qa5 16.b3 Nd7 17.Bc4 Nc5 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.Rhg1 0-0-0 21.Qf2 Be7 22.Ne2 Kb7 23.Nf4 Bc6 with better chances for Black, Yudasin - Huzman, Tel Aviv 1999

After 12.Rhe1 Black has several continuations at his disposal. At the early development stages of this variation Black mostly played 12...b4 and then quickly 13...d5 (C3) but opening up the position early seems dangerous. Modern theory prefers the way where Black delays with the thematic attack in the center ...d5.

**C1)** 12...g5!? 13.h3 Nfd7 14.Kb1 Be7 15.Qf2 Rc8 16.Nce2 Nc5 17.Bc1 with a slight advantage for White, Kobalija - Vaulin, Novgorod 1999.

**C2)** 12...Nfd7 13.f4 (13.Kb1 Rc8 transposes into C4) 13...Nxg4 14.Bg1 e5 15.fxe5 Ngxe5 16.Kb1 g6 17.Be3 Rc8 18.Rg1 Nc5 19.a3 Qd7 20.Rg3 h5 21.Bf4 h4 22.Rg2 Be7 23.Qf2 Ncxd3 24.cxd3 Qh3 with an excellent position for Black, Lastin - Galkin, Novgorod 1999.

**C3)** 12...b4 13.Na4 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.f4! [The older continuation 15.Bf2 is less promising. For example 15...Bd6 16.Bf5 0-0 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Kh8 19.Bxd5 Nxf3 20.Bxf3 Bxf3 21.Bb6 Bxd1 22.Bxd8 Raxd8 23.Og2 (23.Qxd1 Bf4+ 24.Kb1 Rxd1+ 25. Rxd1 Bxh2 is slightly better for Black, Hjartarson – Kasparov, Thessaloniki ol 1988) 23...

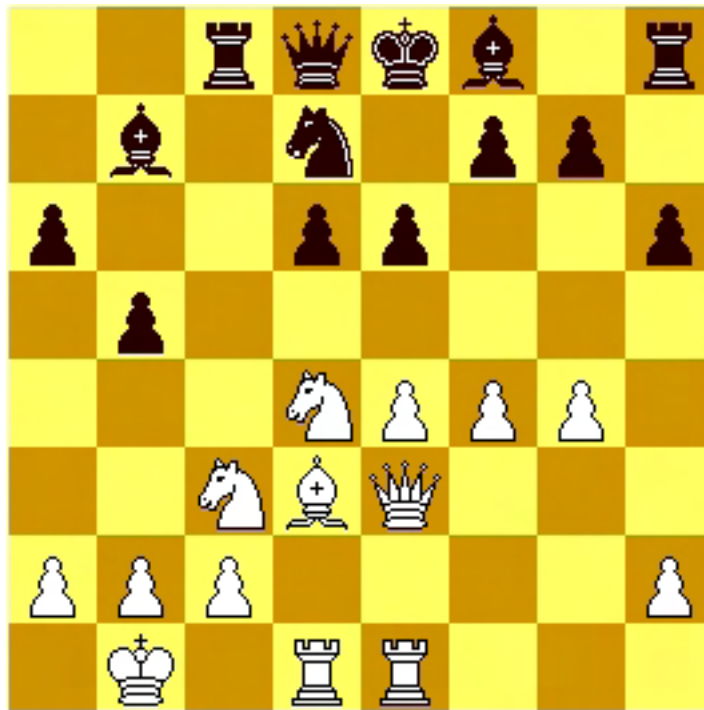
Bf3 24.Qg1 Bf4+ 25.Kb1 Bd2 26.Rf1 Be2 (26...Bxg4!? 27.Rxf8+ Rxf8 with compensation) 27.Rf2 Rfe8 with an unclear position, Nijboer – Brenninkmeijer, Nederland 1990] 15...Qd7 (The only move. Either 15...Nxd3?!+ 16.Qxd3 Qd7 17.Qb3, Magem Badals – Vera, Terrassa 1995, or 15...Nxc4 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bg6+ Kd7 18.Bd4 Bd6 19.Qe2 Ngf6 20.Nc5+ Bxc5 21.Qxe6+ Fedorov – Novikov, Nikolaev 1995 is very dubious for Black) 16.b3 Nxc4 [16...Nxd3+ 17.Qxd3 0-0-0 18.f5 (White's position must be better after 18.Nf3!? with the idea 19.Ne5) 18...e5 19.Nf3 (Kolev – Kir. Georgiev, Elenite 1995) 19...f6 20.Bb6 Re8 21.Nd2 Kb8 with an unclear position according to Kir. Georgiev] and now:



**C31)** 17.f5 e5 18.Bf4 Be7 19.Bxe5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 0-0 21.Rg1 Bf6 22.Qxh6 Bxe5 23.f6 Bf4+ 24.Qxf4 Nxf4 25.Rxg7+ Kh8 26.Rh7+ ½ De la Villa Garcia - Novikov, Saint Vincent 1999

**C32)** 17.Nxe6 Ngxe3 (If 17...fxe6 than after 18.Bg6+ Kd8 19.Nb6 White obtains an irresistible attack) 18.Nb6 [18.Rxe3 fxe6 (18...Nxe3? 19.Bb5) 19.Bf5 Qc7 20.Rxe6+ Be7 21.Rde1 0-0!] 18...Qxe6 (18...Nxb6 19.Qxe3 Nd5 20.Nc7+ Kd8 21.Nxd5 Bxd5 22.Qb6+ is winning for White) 19.Nxd5 0-0-0 20.Rxe3 Qd6 21.Bc4 Bxd5 22.Bxd5 Qf6 23.Bb7+ ½ Magem Badals - Savchenko, Metz 1999. At the end Black escaped but an overall impression is that White can improve his play somewhere.

**C4)** 12...Rc8 (The fashionable continuation) 13.Kb1 Nfd7 14.f4 Nc4 (14...Nxc4 deserves a practical test) 15.Qe2! [Much better than 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.f5 e5 17.Nf3 Qa8 18.b3 Rxe4! 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Ng1 Be7 21.Bf2 0-0 22.Qe3 Nf6 23.Bh4 Qc6 24.Re2 Rc8 25.Kb2 d5 26.Bxf6 Bxf6 27.c3 Bg5 28.Qg3 d4 29.cxd4 exd4 30.Rde1 d3 31.Rxe4 Bc1+ 0-1 Korneev – Topalov, ch-ESP (team) 1999] 15...Nxe3 16.Qxe3

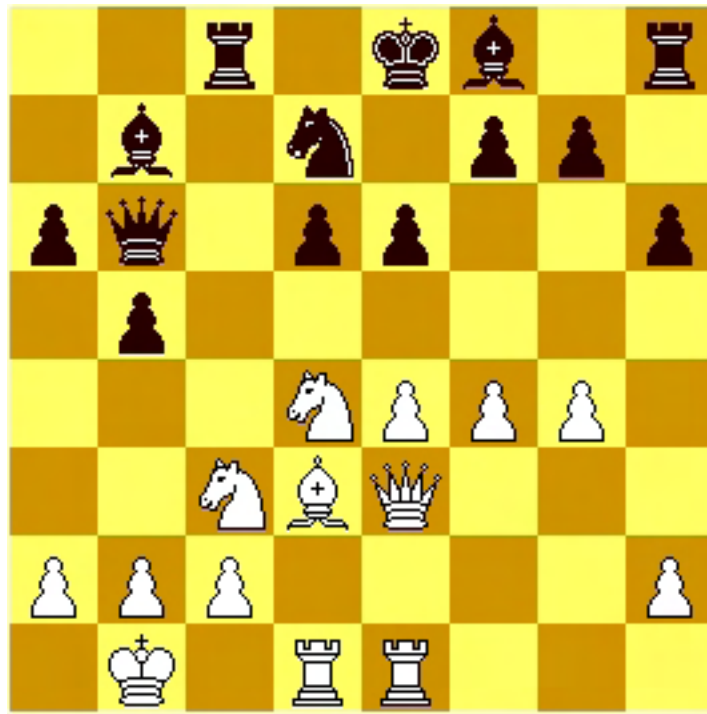


This position was the discussion topic in three games played by Van Wely at the recent Corus tournament 2000 - Wijk aan Zee.

a. 16...b4 17.Nd5 g5 18.Nf5 Rg8 19.Qa7 Nc5 20.Bxa6 Bxa6 21.e5 dxe5 22.Nde7 Qxe7 23.Nxe7 Bxe7 24.Rxe5 gxf4 25.Rxc5 Bxc5 26.Qxa6 Ke7 27.Qb7+ with the advantage for White, Morozevich - Topalov, Frankfurt 1999

b. 16...g5 17.e5 gxf4 18.Qxf4 dxe5 19.Nxe6! Qe7 (19...exf4? 20.Nc7 mate) 20.Qd2 fxe6 21.Bg6+ Kd8 22.Rf1 Rxc3! (22...Rc7 23 Rf7 Qe8 24 Qe1 Bd5 25 Nxd5 exd5 26 Rxd5 Be7 is not an attractive proposition) 23.Qxc3 Qc5 [23...Qg5?! 24 Qa5+ Kc8 25 Rf7 Be7 26 Be4 A) 26...Bxe4 27 Qxa6+ Kc7 (27...Bb7 28 Qxe6) 28 Qxe6; B) 26...Rd8 27 Rd3 Bxe4 28 Qxa6+ Bb7 29 Qxe6] 24.Rf7 Bc8? (24...Bd5!) 25.Qd2 Qa7 26.g5 b4 27.gxh6 Bxh6 28.Qxb4 Bg5 29.Qg4 1-0 Morozevich - Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee (6) 2000

c. 16...Qb6



The latest attempt and the ideal that lived only for two days. After his success in the 8<sup>th</sup> round against Anand, Van Wely got smashed by Timman two rounds later.

c1) 17.f5 e5 18.Nb3 Qxe3 19.Rxe3 Nc5 20.Na5 Ba8 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5 Be7 23.Be2 Bg5 24.Rc3 e4 25.Nc6 Bf6 26.Ra3 Kd7 27.Nb4 Ra8 28.Nxa6 b4 29.Nxc5+ dxc5 30.Re3 Kd6 31.Rxe4 ½ Anand - Van Wely, Corus Wijk aan Zee (8) 2000

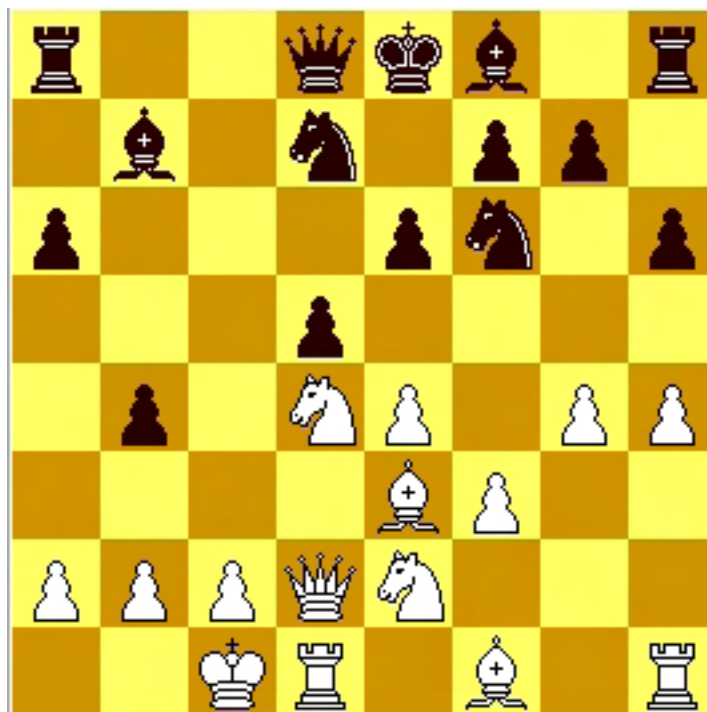
c2) 17.Nd5! (This thematic knight sacrifice refutes the idea behind 16...Qb6) 17...exd5 18.exd5+ Kd8 19.Bxb5! axb5 20.Qe8+ Kc7 21.Qxf7 g5 (21...Rd8) 22.Ne6+ (The knight on e6 totally paralyzes Black's position) 22...Kb8 23.Qxd7 gxf4 24.Rf1 f3 25.a3 (25. Rxf3? doesn't work because of 25...Bxd5!, but according to Timman even stronger is 25. Rd4 with the idea 26.Rb4 or 26.Rxf3) 25...Qe3 26.Rfe1 Qb6 27.Rf1 Qe3 28.Rfe1 Qb6 29. Re4 Rc4 (After 29...f2 30.Rf4 or 30.Rb4 it is difficult for Black to defend his position) 30. Nd4 Rc5? ["Up to now, Van Wely has displayed a spirited defense to Timman's prepared line. However, during the post-mortem and press conference, Timman thought that Van Wely could have saved the day with 30...f2!? 31 Re8+ Ka7 32 Nxb5+ Ka6 33 b3 Qxb5 34 Qxb5+ Kxb5 35 bxc4+ Kxc4 36 Rb8 Ba6 (36...Bxd5 37 Rc8+) 37 Ra8 Bb7 (37...Bb5 38 Rc8+) 38 Ra7 Rh7 39 Ra4+ Kc5 40 Rf4 Bg7 41 Rxf2 Bxd5"] 31.Re8+ Ka7 32.Nc6+ Rxc6 (32...Ka6 33.Rb8 Rxc6 34.dxc6 Qxc6 35.Qf7 is hopeless as well) 33.dxc6 Qxc6 34. Qd8 Qc4 35.Qb8+ Ka6 36.Rxf8 Rxf8 37.Qxf8 1-0 Timman - Van Wely, Corus Wijk aan Zee (10) 2000

**Variation II**  
**11.h4 b4**

The idea behind the continuation 11.h4 is crystal-clear. White prepares the advance of the g-pawn in order to weaken the most sensitive spot in the Black position - the e6 point. Unlike the previous variation (11.Bd3), Black is forced to react actively at once. He has to create counterplay on the queenside as fast as possible. Of course with his King stuck in the middle any activity involves a risk.

Of the three possible continuations for White **12.Nce2 (A)**, **12.Nb1 (B)** and **12.Na4 (C)** the last one is the most active and the most dangerous.

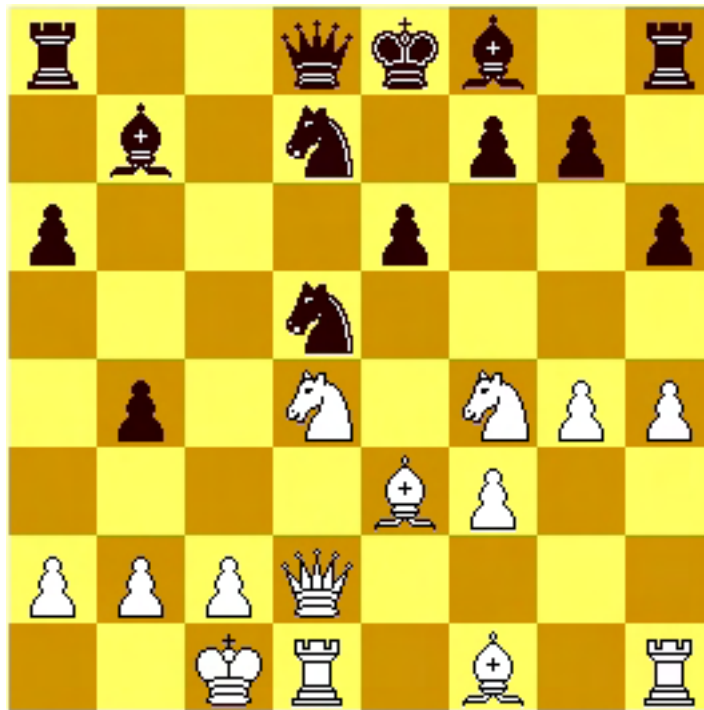
A. 12.Nce2 d5



Tournament practice has shown that Black achieves good results with this variation.

**A1) 13.Ng3** dxe4! 14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5 Rxh1 16.Nxh1 Nd5 17.g6 Qf6 18.gxf7+ Qxf7 19.Nf2 e5! 20.Nf5 g6! Is preferable for Black, Nunn – J.Polgar, Amsterdam 1995.

**A2) 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nf4**



- a. 14...Ne5 15.Be2 Rc8 16.g5 Nc3 17.Nfxe6 fxe6 18.Bf4? Qxd4 0-1 Sarno - Arlandi, Saint Vincent 1999.
- b. 14...Bc5 15.Bc4 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 0-0 17.Qe2 Bxd4 18.Rxd4 Qf6 19.Qe3 Qe5 20.Re1 Qxe3+ 21.Rxe3 Nb6 22.Be2 a5 with an equal game, McShane – Gen. Timoschenko, Benasque 1996.
- c. 14...Nxf4 15.Bxf4 Be7 16.Bc4 Nb6 17.Qe2 Bd5 (17...Nxc4? 18.Nxe6! wins) 18.Nc6 Qd7 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 20.Bxd5 Nxd5 21.Be5 f6 22.Bd4 Kf7 with an unclear position, Arencibia – Vera, Juarez 1993.
- d. 14...Nxe3 15.Qxe3?! [Critical is 15.Ndx6! fxe6 16.Nxe6 Nxd1 17.Nxd8 (17.Bd3? Qf6 18.Rxd1 Qxe6 19.Bg6+ Kd8 20.Bf5 Qd6 21.Qe2 Bd5 22.Kb1 Nb6 23.Re1 Kc7 0-1 Stopsack - Lingnau, Munster 1993) 17...Kxd8 18.Bc4! Bxf3 (18...Nxb2 19.Be6 Bc6 20.Kxb2 is assessed as unclear by Hubner) 19.Be6 Ra7 20.Rf1 Bc6 21.Rxd1 Bc5 22.Qf4 with the initiative] 15...Qb6 16.Bc4 0-0-0 17.Nd3 Be7 18.Rd2 Bf6 19.c3 bxc3 20.bxc3 Qc7 21.Bb3 Nb6 with a distinct advantage for Black, Bobrowska - Galkin, Stockholm 1999.

**A3) 13.Bh3** dxe4! 14.g5 hxg5! 15.hxg5 exf3 16.Ng3 [16.Nf4? Ne4 17.Qe1 Rxh3! 18.Nxh3 (18.Rxh3 Nxg5 19.Rh8 Qe7! with the idea 20...0-0-0) 18...e5! 19.Nb3 a5! 20.Nd2 Qc7 21.Bb6 Nxb6 22.Nxe4 Rc8 was better for Black in Anand - Ljubojevic, Buenos Aires 1994] 16...Ne4 (16...Rxh3?! 17.Rxh3 Ng4 18.g6 Ndf6 19.Rh8 Qe7 20.Ndf5 exf5 21.Nxf5 1-0 Solovjov - Voitsekhovskiy, St Petersburg 1999) 17.Qe1 [17.Nxe4?! Bxe4 18.Bf4 (18.g6 Bxg6 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bxe6 Nc5 is better for Black, Slobodjan – Stangl, Bad Homburg 1996) 18...Nc5 19.Qe3 Qa5 20.Kb1 Bd5 21.Nb3 Nxb3+ 22.axb3 Qc5 23.Qd3 Qc6 24.g6 Be4! With the decisive advantage for Black, Ye Jiangchuan – Topalov,

Moscow 1994] 17...f2 18.Bxf2 Qxg5+ 19.Kb1 Qf4 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxe6 Ndc5! 22.Rxh8 Nxe6 23.Qxb4 Nxf2! With an unclear position according to Efremov and Basinski.

## B. 12.Nb1

Ivanchuk's move that was 'in' for a short period of time. Several top level games discovered the drawbacks of this continuation. The more active 12.Na4 is more in the spirit of the variation.

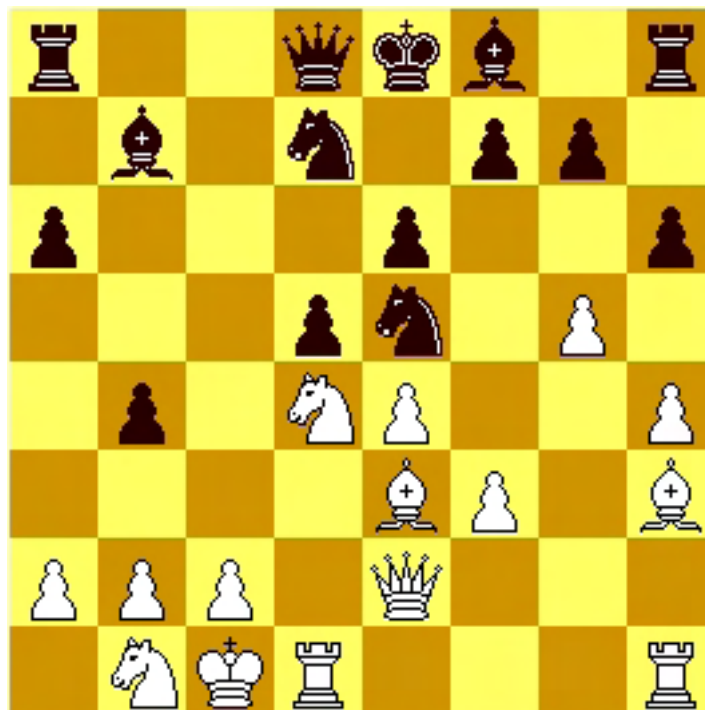
### 12...d5

This is better than 12...Qa5 13.Bh3 Ne5 14.b3 Rc8 15.a4 Nxf3 16.Nxf3 Bxe4 17.Nd4! Bxh1 18.Rxh1 Ne4 19.Qg2 d5, Anand – Gelfand, Haifa 1998.

### 13.Bh3

In this basic position of the continuation with 12.Nb1, Black faces the choice - whether to allow the advance g4-g5 by playing **13...Ne5 (B1)** or to prevent White's advance with the radical **13...g5 (B2)**. The second option, backed by the authority of Kasparov, is a better choice.

### **B1) 13...Ne5 14.g5 Nfd7 15.Qe2**



a. 15...dxe4 16.f4 Nd3!+ 17.cxd3 exd3 18.Qxd3 Nc5 (18...Rc8+!?) 19.Qc2 Be4 (Anand – Topalov, Tilburg 1998) 20.Bg2! Bxc2 21.Bc6 Nd7 22.Nc2 hxg5 23.fxg5 Rc8 24.Rxd7 Qxd7 25.Bxd7+ Kxd7 26.Nd2 is slightly better for White according to



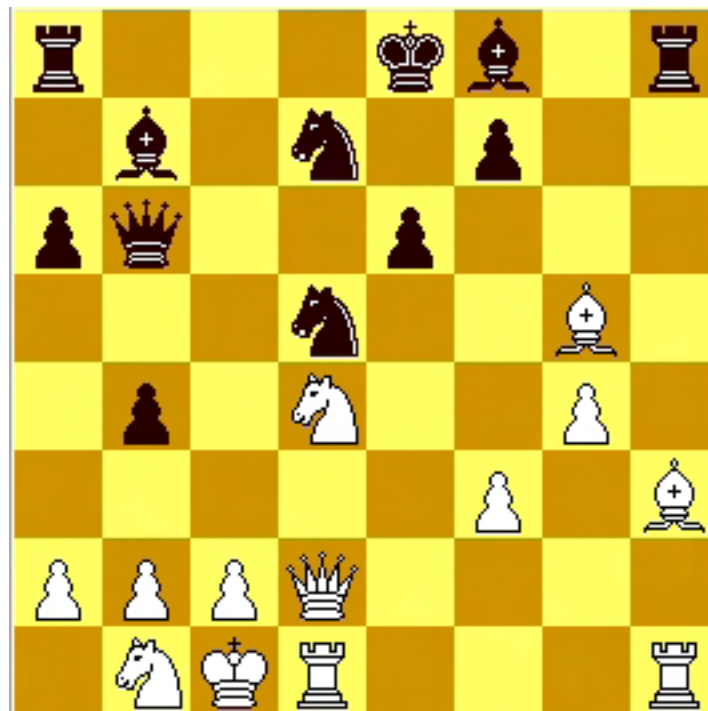
Anand.

b. 15...Qa5 (A practical test should be given to 15...hxg5 16.hxg5 Rxh3 17.Rxh3 dxe4 with compensation, Van Wely) 16.f4 Nc4 17.b3 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 dxe4 19.g6 with an unclear game, Ivanchuk – Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1996.

## **B2) 13...g5 14.hxg5 hxg5 15.exd5**

Superficial is 15.Bxg5 dxe4 16.fxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxd8 Nxd2 18.Bg2 Rxh1 19.Bxh1 Bxh1 20.Nxd2 Rxd8 21.Rxh1 Ne5 22.N2b3 Nxg4 and Black is clearly better, Merics - Bushill, Scarborough 1999.

15...Nxd5 16.Bxg5 Qb6



Probably the best. The ending after 16...Qxg5 17.Qxg5 Bh6 18.Qxh6 Rxh6 19.g5 Rg6 20.Nd2! is better for White but possible is 16...Qa5 17.Bg2 Rxh1 18.Rxh1 Qxa2 19.Rh8 Rc8 (Critical is 19...Ne5! 20.Nxe6! fxe6 21.Qd4! Nc4 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Qh5+ Kf8 25.Qh6+ Kf7 with an equal game according to Leko) 20.Nf5! Nc5! 21.Rxf8+ Kxf8 22.Bh6+ Ke8 23.Nd6+ Kd7 24.Nxc8 Kxc8 25.Qd4 with the initiative, Leko - Topalov, Linares 1999.

17.Bg2 Rxh1 18.Bxh1 Rc8 19.Re1 Qa5

Abandons the defense of the e6 point. Also possible is 19...Nc5!? 20.f4 Bg7 21.Nf5 Kf8 22.Nxg7 b3 23.Qd4 Nd3+! (23...bxa2? 24.Nxe6+!) 24.Qxd3 Qf2 25.Nxe6+ fxe6 26.Bh6+ Ke7 27.Qh7+ Kd6 28.Bf8+ Rxf8 29.Qe4 bxa2 30.Qxe6+ Kc7 31.Bxd5 Qxf4+ 32.Re3

Qf1+ 33.Re1 Qf4+ 34.Re3 Bxd5 35.Qe7+ Kb8 0-1 Mastrovasilis - Lutz, Corfu 1999.

20.f4 Qxa2 21.f5

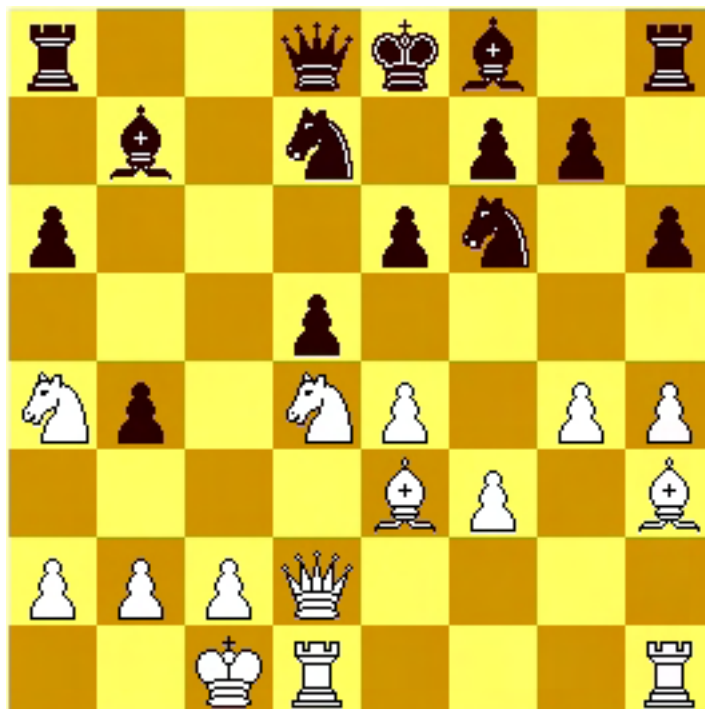
Overoptimistic is 21.Nxe6? fxe6 22.Rxe6+ Kf7 23.Qd3 Kxe6 24.Qg6+ N7f6 25.Bxf6 Nxf6 26.Bxb7 Rd8 and Black realized his material advantage, Zufic - Tratar, Ljubljana 1999.

21...Nc5 22.fxe6 Bg7 23.exf7+ Kxf7 24.Bxd5+ and now instead of 24...Qxd5 25.Re7+ Kg8 26.Rxg7+ Kxg7 27.Nc3 bxc3 28.Nf5+ Kf7 29.Qxd5+ Bxd5 30.Nd6+ Kg6 with a superior endgame, Anand - Kasparov, Linares 1999, White should have been, according to Kasparov, satisfied with a draw after 24.Qf2!+ Kg8 25.Qf5! Bxd4 26.Qg6+ Bg7 27.Re8+ Rxe8 28.Qxe8+ Kh7 29.Qh5+

### C. 12.Na4!

The most active continuation. Recently Black has faced serious problems in this variation.

#### C1) 12...d5?! 13.Bh3!



White directs his forces to the e6 point. Black practically cannot prevent the unfavorable opening of the position of his king. On the other hand, as a rule, his counterplay on the queenside is late. Black's results in this variation are extremely poor.

a. 13...Ne5?! 14.g5 Nfd7 (14...Nc4?! 15.Qe2) 15.b3 (15.f4!? Nc4 16.Qe2) 15...

Qa5 (15...dxe4 16.f4 Nf3 17.Nxf3 exf3 18.g6) 16.g6! Nxg6 17.Nxe6! fxe6 18.Bxe6 with a strong attack, Korneev - Mrdja, Cutro 1997.

b. 13...g5? ["When White knight retreats to b1 (after 11...b4), this pawn advance can be interesting. Here the knight is on a4 and in some lines he can join the attack in the center very quickly – thus, it is dangerous for Black to open the position in such a jerky way" – Kasparov] 14.Bg2 gxh4?! ("Probably, this is the decisive mistake. 14...Rg8 still gave Black some chances to defend – at least the position remained closed" - Kasparov) 15.Rxh4 dxe4 [a) 15...Nxe4 16.fxe4 Qxh4 17.exd5 Black is up an exchange but doesn't care about it – Black King is in a real trouble while his colleague just enjoys life; b) 15...Qa5 16.b3 dxe4 17.g5 Nd5 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.fxe4+] 16.g5 Nd5 17.Rxe4 hxg5 (17...Qa5 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Rxe6+ Kf7 20.Qd3 Kxe6 21.Qe4+ Kf7 22.g6+ Kg7 23.Qe6) 18.Bxg5 Qa5 (The endgame after 18...Qxg5 19.Qxg5 Bh6 20.Nxe6 Bxg5+ Kf8 22.Bh3 is also lost for Black) 19.f4 Rh2 (No way to parry the threats: a) 19...N7f6 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Nxe6 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Rc8 23.Nxf8 Qxa4 24.Qd6; b) 19...e5 20.Nb3 Qxa4 21.Rxe5+ Nxe5 22.Bxd5 - Kasparov) 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rxe6+ Kf7 22.Qd3 Bg7 23.Qf5+ Kg8 24.Rxd5 Qxa4 25.Re7 1-0 Kasparov - Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee (3) 2000.

c. 13...Qa5 14.b3.



and now:

c1) 14...dxe4 15.g5 hxg5 16.hxg5 Rxh3 17.Rxh3 Nd5 18.g6 Nc5 19.fxe4 Nxe4 20.gxf7+ Kxf7 21.Rf1+ Ndf6 22.Qe2 Rd8 23.Nf3 Rd5 24.Bd4 Bc6 25.Qxe4! Nxe4 26.Ne5+ Ke8 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8 28.Rh8+ Ke7 29.Nxc6+ and White won, Khassanov - Gentes, Brantford 1999.

c2) 14...g5 15.hxg5 hxg5 16.Bxg5!? 16.e5 (15.Bxg5!? dxe4 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.g5 with the initiative for White) 16...Nxe5 17.Bxg5 Be7 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.g5 Bg7 20.f4 with slightly better chances for White, Korneev – Van Wely, Villarrobledo (rapid) 1998.

c3) 14...Nc5 15.g5 Nxa4 (15...Nfd7 16.g6 e5 17.gxf7+ Kxf7 18.exd5 exd4 19.Bxd4 is in White's favour, Nedev – Palac, Erevan ol 1996) 16.bxa4 hxg5 (16...Nd7 17.g6 Nc5 18.gxf7+ Kxf7 19.Nb3 Nxb3 20.axb3 is clearly better for White, Gunawan – Paschall, New York 1994) 17.hxg5 Rxh3 (17...Nd7 18.g6 is losing while after 17...Qxa4 White plays 18.Kb1) 18.Rxh3 Nd7 19.g6 Qxa4 20.gxf7+ Kxf7 21.Kb1 e5 (Better is 21...dxe4) 22.Nb3 Rc8?! (22...d4) 23.Rh5! d4 24.Rf5+ Ke8 25.Qh2 Qc6 26.Na5 Qe6 27.Bxd4 g6 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Nxb7 exd4 30.Qh8+ 1-0 Tiviakov - Rashkovsky, Linares 1999

## **C2) 12...Qa5**

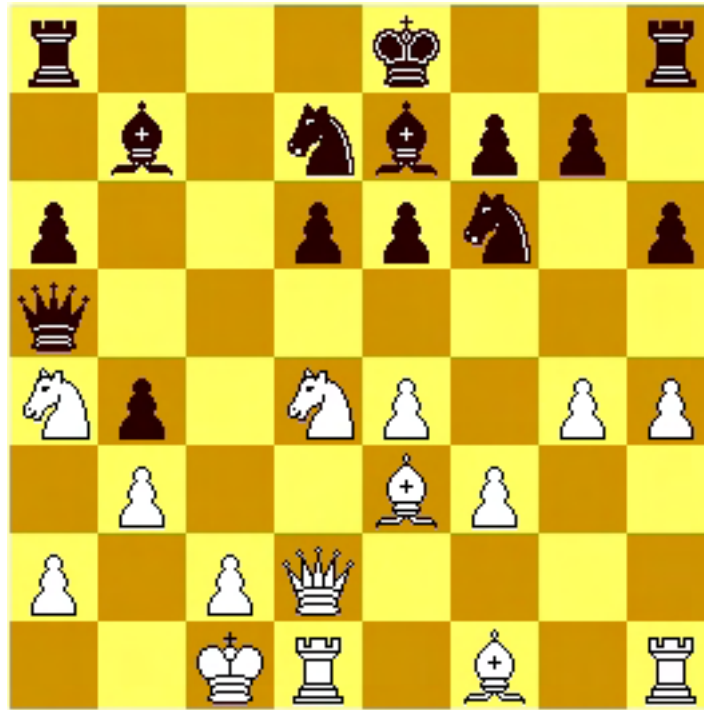
Undoubtedly, a better continuation than 12...d5.

### 13.b3

Now Black has the option between **13...d5?! (C21)**, **13...Be7 (C22)** and **13...Nc5 (C23)**.

**C21) 13...d5?!** 14.e5! Nxe5 (14...Ng8 15.f4 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Kb1 Ne7 18.f5 Qb6 19.Rh3 is clearly better for White, Jazbinsek – Tratar, Slovenia 1994) 15.Nxe6 d4 (15...fxe6 16.Bb6 lose the queen) 16.Bxd4 Nxf3 17.Qe3 fxe6 18.Qxe6+ Be7 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rd7 Rh7 21.Rxb7 Qe5 22.Qxe5 fxe5 23.Bd3 Rh8 24.Bg6+ Black resigns, Lungu – Dumitrescu, Romania 1993

## **C22) 13...Be7**



Black's main continuation 13...Nc5 is in jeopardy. Fans of this variation may want to turn to this continuation instead.

a. 14.Bh3 g5! 15.hxg5 hxg5 16.Bxg5? Nxe4!

b. 14.Kb1 d5? (Better is 14...Nc5!) 15.Bh3 dxe4 16.g5 hxg5 17.hxg5 Nd5 18.g6 0-0-0 19.fxe4 Nc3+ 20.Nxc3 bxc3 21.Qe2 Nc5 22.gxf7 Rxh3 23.Rxh3 Bxe4 24.Bc1 e5 25.Ne6 Rxd1 26.Rh8+ Kd7 27.f8Q 1-0 Korneev - Herrera, Malaga 1999.

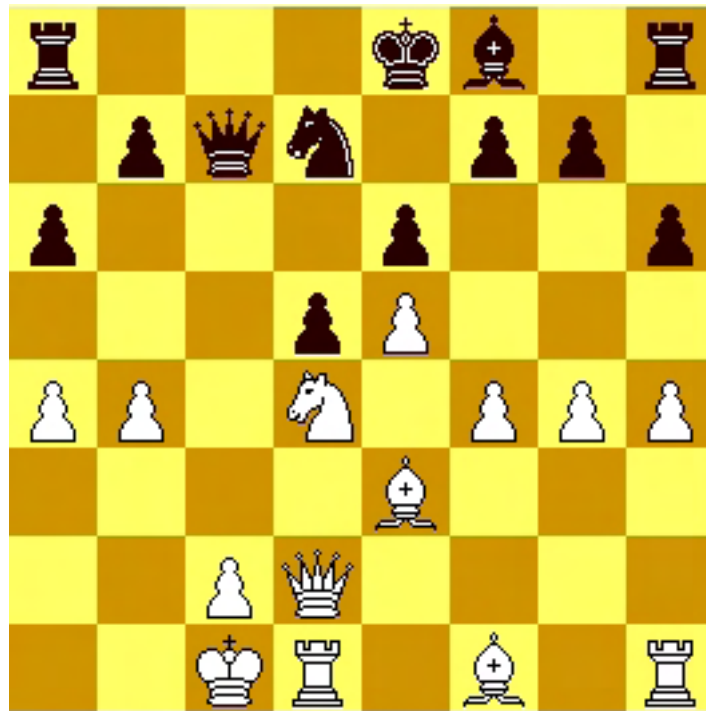
c. 14.Bd3 Nc5 15.g5 Nfd7 16.g6 Ne5 (On 16...fxg6 White has a strong reply 17.e5! attacking the weak squares e6 and g6) 17.gxf7+ Kxf7 18.Be2 (18.f4? fails to 18...Nexd3 19.cxd3 Nxa4) 18...Nxa4 19.bxa4 and it is not easy to assess whose king is in a greater danger, Korneev – Galkin, Novgorod 1997.

d. 14.Rh2 Ne5 (14...Nc5!?) 15.g5 Nfd7 16.f4 Ng4 17.Re2 Nc5?! 18.Nxe6! Nxa4 (Black is losing either after 18...Nxe6 19.Bb6 or 18...fxe6 19.Bxc5) 19.Nxg7+ Kf8 20.bxa4 Nxe3 21.Rxe3 Kxg7 22.Qd4+ Kg8 23.e5 d5 24.e6 Rf8 25.exf7+ Rxf7 26.g6 Rg7 27.f5 with the advantage for White, Vorobiov - Yashtylov, St Petersburg 1999

### **C23) 13...Nc5 14.a3 Nxa4 15.axb4 Qc7 16.bxa4 d5**

Weaker is 16...Nd7?! 17.Nb3 Be7 18.Bd4 0-0 19.g5 h5 20.Bd3 Rfc8 21.f4 with the advantage for White, Murawski – Stypka, Lubniewice 1994.

17.e5 Nd7 18.f4



This position attracted attention after the well-known game Topalov – Kasparov, Linares 1999. In the high-quality theoretical article published in NIC Yearbook 50 (page 209) GM Tiviakov says: "After 18.f4 Black has a choice between two equally good replies. 18...a5 took place in the game Paragua – Leroy, Linares 1995, while 18...Nb6 19.a5 Nc4 20.Qc3 Qe7 was chosen by Garry Kasparov in his recent game against Topalov, Linares 1999. It seems to me that Black is better after both 18...a5 and 18...Nb6."

First let us examine these two examples. In the game Topalov – Kasparov, Linares 1999 (Informant 75/208) Black really outplayed his opponent after 18...Nb6 19.a5 Nc4! 20.Qc3 Qe7! 21.Bxc4 dxc4 and had a better game. As far as the second game is concerned, Paragua – Leroy, Linares 1995, it is not an adequate example for the continuation of 18...a5. I think that although White won the game his rook sacrifice after 19.Nb5 Qc8 20.bxa5 d4 21.Nxd4 Bxh1 22.Bb5 Bd5 is not correct.

The continuation 18...a5 should be seriously counted upon. However it is necessary to test the position where White plays 19.bxa5 followed by 20.Bb5 in tournament play.

As for Kasparov's 18...Nb6, there was an interesting case in Batumi that proves that it is not an easy job to give final judgments of such positions or continuations. Even when they are supported by such an authority as Kasparov. After...

18...Nb6

...two games had an identical course up to the 26<sup>th</sup> move.

19.f5!

A powerful novelty and this option is not even mentioned by Kasparov in his extensive comments.

We should also mention Bologan's interesting idea: 19.Rh3 with the idea of transposing the rook to the queenside. After 19.Rh3 Nxa4 20.Bf2 Rc8 21.Be1 Nb6 22.Ra3 (22.f5!) two of his games diverged:

a. 22...Nc4?! 23.Bxc4 dxc4 (23...Qxc4 24.h5 Be7 25.Kb2 is slightly better for White) 24.Qe2 (24.c3) 24...Qb6 25.c3 Bd5 26.Qc2! with the advantage for White, Bologan - Novikov, Philadelphia 1999.

b. 22...Be7 23.Kb1 (23.Bxa6? Bxa6 24.Rxa6 Qb7 is good for Black, but worthy of consideration is 23.f5 exf5!?) 23...0-0 24.g5 h5 25.g6 Nc4 26.Bxc4 dxc4 27.gxf7+ Rxf7 28.Nxe6 Qb6 29.Nd4 a5 30.Rxa5 c3 31.Qe2 Qxb4+ 32.Nb3 Be4 33.Rb5 Qa3 34.Bxc3 Rxf4 35.Rd4½ Bologan - Pelletier, Biel 1999.

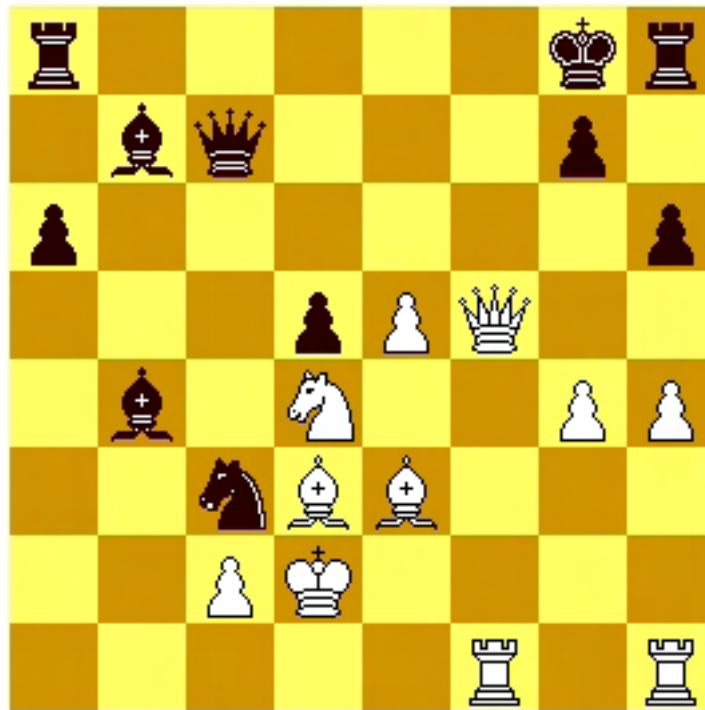
### 19...Nxa4

19...Qxe5? is bad on account of 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Bf4 Qf6 (21...Qe4 22.Bd3 Qxd4 23.Bb5 + wins) 22.g5 and 23.Nxe6.

### 20.fxe6 Nc3 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Bd3 Bxb4

After 22...Nxd1 23.e6+ Kg8 24.Kxd1 White would have developed an irresistible attack.

23.Rdf1+ Kg8 24.Qf2 Ba3+ (24...Rf8? 25.Qxf8+!) 25.Kd2 Bb4 (Going under without a fight. Black should have tried 25...Ne4+ 26.Bxe4 dxe4) 26.Qf5!



In this position, which is already lost for Black, there is the following deviation:

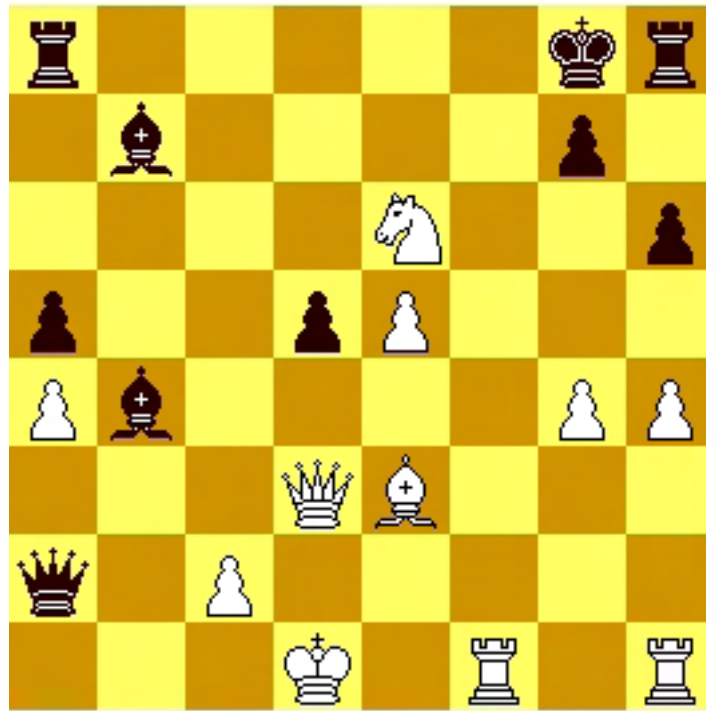
The game Grishuk – Ibrahimov, Batumi 1999 played in the first round finished as follows: 26...Ne4+ 27.Kd1 Rf8 28.Qe6+ Kh7 29.g5 Rhg8 30.gxh6 g6 31.h5 Bc8 32.hxg6 + Rxg6 33.Qxg6+ Kxg6 34.Rfg1+ Kh7 35.Rg7+ Qxg7 36.hxg7+ 1-0

Grandmaster Cvitan is a good theoretician but it is not his habit to leaf through the bulletin during the tournament. If he had done so in Batumi, he would have probably avoided a very unpleasant defeat in the 7<sup>th</sup> round. The game Zulfugarli - Cvitan, Batumi 1999 was even shorter than the previous one: 26...Re8 27.e6 Ne4+ (27...Rf8 doesn't help since after 28.Qg6 Rxf1 29.Rxf1 Ne4+ 30.Kd1 Nc3+ 31.Kc1 Black is defenseless) 28.Kd1 Qg3 29.Qf7+ Kh7 30.Rf3 Qb8 31.Rf6! 1-0

Having just finished this article I was once again astonished by the speed of how chess theory develops these days. Going through the games of Corus-Wijk aan Zee 2000 of the B tournament, I noticed another high-class example where the novelty 19.f5 was applied. And what else, the White player was the expert of this line GM Tiviakov himself. Instead of 19...Nxa4, Black improved with 19...Nc4!?. The game Tiviakov - Danailov, Corus B, Wijk aan Zee (11), 2000 had the following course: 19.f5 Nc4 20.Bxc4 Qxc4 21.fxe6 Bxb4 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qd3 Qa2 24.Rdf1+ Kg8 25.Kd1! a5 [25...Qxa4 26.Qg6 Qe8 (26...Rf8 27.Ne6 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1+-) 27.Qb6+-] 26.Qf5 Qa1+ 27.Ke2 Ba6+ 28.Nb5 Qxa4 29.Qe6+ Kh7 30.Qf5+ Kg8 31.Qe6+ Draw. We see that Black survived by playing 19...Nc4.

So is the line still playable for Black? I am not quite sure. For the definitive assessment of this move the proper analyses of 26.Ne6! instead of 26.Qf5 is required. All variations below favor White: 26.Ne6!





**A)** 26...Qxa4 27.Qg6+-;

**B)** 26...Qa1+ 27.Bc1 Qxe5 (27...Qxa4 28.Qg6 Qd7 29.Nxg7 Qxg7 30.Qe6+ Kh7 31.Rf7 +-) 28.Qg6 Rh7 (28...Rf8 29.Nxf8 Qd4+ 30.Ke2 Qc4+ 31.Kf2 Bxf8 32.Qe6+ Kh7 33.Qf5 + Kg8 34.Kg3+-) 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.Qxb7 Re8 31.Re1 Bxe1 32.Rxe1+-;

**C)** 26...Ba6 27.Qg6 Qa1+ 28.Bc1

**C1)** 28...Rh7 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.Rf3 Qxe5 (30...Rc8 31.Qf5 Qxa4 32.Nf4 Qe8 33.Ng6+ Kg8 34.e6+-) 31.Nf4+-;

**C2)** 28...Qxe5 29.Qf7+ Kh7 30.Ng5+-.

As I mentioned above, it is not an easy task to give final assessments in this sharp variation. I still think that Black players will focus their attention to the continuation of 18...a5.

Conclusion: The main line of the so-called "English Attack" with 6...e6, 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Qd2 b5 8.f3 Nbd7 9.g4 h6 10.0-0-0 Bb7 is a complex system full of long sharp lines that one has to know very well in order to play successfully in practice.

Everything, gets mostly solved in complex tactical plots. Positional elements are less pronounced here and each tempo is extremely important. Both Black and White have to be prepared to expose their kings to severe attacks. It often happens that the Black king is forced to hang around in the center before have to choose one or the other side. Usually there is no room for even small errors in such types of positions. At the moment theory favors White but many alternatives and defensive resources for Black have not yet been exhausted.



## Opening: B80 - Sicilian Defense, English attack

### Introduction:

The **English attack** front to the **Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defense** takes place after **5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6** (instead of modern the 6... Ng4, which already we treated in this section) **7.f3** leads generally to positions where the white enrocan long, in as much the blacks must hope patiently to see where they take to his King. The attacks of the white usually are virulent, so that the Blacks must look for contrajuego active, to avoid to fall in positions without solution. In Ivanchuk versus they go Wely, Wijk Aan Zee 1996, and soon in Anand versus Topalov, Tilburg 1998, a very acute theoretical line considered, in which the white side played 15.Qe2. The Argentine fan **Daniel Cielak**, loving of the tele-chess, analyzed the position and **found the surprising sacrifice 15.Bxe6**, that he lead it to a fast victory. We recommended the readers to analyze that delivery at great length!

## Cielak, D - Salai, J [ B80 ] email IECG, 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.g4 h6 9.  
Qd2 Nbd7 10.O-O-O Bb7 11.h4

[ the theoretical alternative is 11.Bd3 ]

**11... b4**

[ **is not good 11... Qc7?** by 12.Rg1 Ne5 13.g5 Nfd7 14.g6 Nc5 15.gxf7+ Qxf7 16.b4±  
Rios, M-Galarza, P/Bogota Lat Cup (07) 1997; Juiceable seems 11... d5 12.Bh3 e5 13.  
g5 b4÷ Svatos, J-Hausner, I/CZE-ch (03) 1994;

**If 11... Nb6** 12.Bd3 ( or also 12.Rg1 b4 13.Nb1 d5 14.g5 Nfd7 15.g6 Qxh4 16.gxf7+  
Kxf7 17.Rg4 Qh5 18.Rf4+ Nf6 19.Nxe6 1-0 Jirovsky, Pe-Rajnys, V/CZE Tschechien-ch  
Prague;EXT 95ch 1995 (32) ) 12... Nfd7 13.g5 (13.f4 Qc7 14.Rhe1 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Qxc4  
16.a3 b4 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.g5 hxg5 19.hxg5 Rc8 Hellers, F-Malisauskas, V/Biel 37 izt  
(10) 13;CBM 1993/½-½ (46) )... h5 14.g6!± Andreescu, N-Schmid, S/WchJW-U18  
Szeged 1994]

**12.Nb1**

Idea of Ftacnik. If the N retires to e2, obstructs the column 'e', that the white try to occupy as rapidly as possible with the Rh1. [ 12.Nce2 Suggested by Goes Wely, Inf. 65/

(223) 12... d5 ½ - ½ Farkas, Ti-Bordas, G/Budapest FS 1993 ]

**12... d5**

[ Deserves consideration 12... e5? and if 13.Nb3 (13.Nf5 d5 with initiative) 13... d5 with contrajuego ]

**13.Bh3 Ne5 14.g5 Nfd7**

And we arrived at the tactically important position

**15.Bxe6!N**



A sacrifice that has everything "la pinta" of being very strong. [ the antecedents left from 15.Qe2 Qa5 (15... hxg5? 16.hxg5 Rxh3 17.Rxh3 dxe4 with compensation; 15... dxe4 16.f4 Nd3+ 17.cxd3 exd3 18.Qxd3 Nc5 19.Qc2 Be4 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Bxc5 Bxc2 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Kxc2 hxg5 25.fxg5 Rxh4 26.Nd2 Ke7 27.Nf3 Rc4+ 28.Kb1 with complex position, Anand, V-Topalov, V/Tilburg NED 1998 ) 16.f4 Nc4 17.b3 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 dxe4 19.g6 Nc5 20.gxf7+ Kxf7 the following analyses are of go Wely: **A**) 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.Rd7+ Be7 **A1**) 23.Rxb7 Nc5 (23... Qd5) ; **A2**) 23.Bxe6+ 23... Kxe6 24.Rxb7 Qd5; **B**) 21.Rhg1 Rc8 (with idea of 22... Q:a2 with contrajuego, according to analysis of Goes Wely **B1**) 22.Qg3 Bd5 (22... g5; 22... g5? Wely, Ls Go ) 23.Qg6+ Ke7 24.Nf5+ exf5 25.Rxd5 Nxb3+ 26.axb3 Qxd5-+ ) ; **B2**) 22.Nxe6 22... Nxe6 (22... Qxa2? 23.Nd8+!+ -) 23.Rd7+ Be7 24.Bxe6+ Kxe6 Bà) 25.Rxb7 Rxc2+ 26.Kxc2 Qxa2+ 27.Kd1 Qxb1+ 28.Ke2 Qc2+ 29.Qd2 Bà1) 29... Qc6 30.Rg6+ (30.f5+ Kf7 31.Rxg7+!+ -) 30... Bf6 31.Rbxg7; Bà2) 29... Qxd2+ 30.Kxd2 Rd8+ 31.Ke2 Bf6f; B2b) 25.Qh3+ 25... Kf7 26.Rxb7 Qc5

(26... Rxc2+ 27.Kxc2 Qc5+ 28.Nc3! Qf2+ 29.Ne2) 27.Qg2 Rhg8 28.Re1 e3! 29.f5? (29. Qe4 Rge8 30.Rxe3 Kf8) 29... Rc6 with some white initiative, Ivanchuk, V-Van Wely, L/ Wijk 1996]

### 15... fxe6

[ the alternatives were: 15... dxe4 16.Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.fxe4 hxg5 (17... Bxe4? 18.Rhe1 ±) 18.hxg5 Rxh1 19.Rxh1 0-0-0÷; 15... Nc4 16.Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.Qe2 Nxe3 18.exd5 0-0-0 19.Qxe3 Bxd5 20.Qd3±; 15... Rc8? 16.Bxd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Nc5 18.Qe2± ]

### 16.Nxe6 Qa5

[ Or 16... Nxf3 17.Qf2±; 16... Qc8 17.exd5 Nxf3 (17... hxg5 18.Bxg5 Nxf3 19.Qe2 ') 18. Qe2 Nfe5 19.Bf4±; 16... Qe7 17.Nc7+ Kd8 18.Nxa8 Bxa8 19.Qd4± ]

### 17.exd5 Rc8

[ Or but 17... hxg5 18.Bxg5 Nxf3 19.Qe3 '; 17... Nxf3 18.Qe2 Nfe5 única 19.gxh6±; 17... Qxa2 18.gxh6±; 17... Nc4 18.Qe2+ - ]

### 18.gxh6 gxh6

[ 18... g6 19.Nxf8± ]

### 19.Bd4 b3

[ Qxd5 did not solve to anything 19... 20.Nxf8 Rxf8 21.Rhe1±; 19... Bxd5 20.Nxf8 Rxf8 21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22.Rhe1+ -; 19... Nxf3 20.Qe2±; 19... Bd6 20.f4±; 19... Nc4 20.Qg2+ - ]

### 20.axb3 Qxd2+

[ 20... Qxd5 21.Rhe1+ -; 20... Bb4 21.Ng7++ - ]

### 21.Nxd2

The rest is simple

### 21... Bb4

[ 21... Bxd5 22.Nf4+ -; 21... Rg8 22.Nxf8 Kxf8 23.Ne4±; 21... Be7 22.Nc4 Nxc4 23. bxc4 Rg8 24.b3± ]

### 22.Nc4 Nxc4

[ 22... Bxd5 23.Ng7+ Ke7 (23... Kf7 24.Bxe5+ -) 24.Bxe5 Nxe5 25.Rxd5+ - ]

**23.bxc4 Rg8**

[ 23... Rh7 24.b3± ]

**24.b3 Be7**

[ 24... Nc5 25.Bxc5 Bxc5 26.Nxc5 Rxc5 27.Rhe1+ Kd8 28.Re6± ]

**25.Rde1 Kf7 26.Re4 Rg3**

[ 26... Nf6 27.Rf4 Rg6 28.Re1+ - ]

**27.Rf4+**

[ 27.Rf4+ Bf6 (27... Nf6 28.Re1 Re8 29.Nc5+ -) 28.Re1+ - ] **1-0**

**GM Alvarez, Roberto (Argentina)**  
**GM Elwert, Hans-Marcus (Germany)**  
**CAPA-X Jubilee, 2000**  
**Sicilian Naidorf B80**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3**

The variation popularized by the English players Short, Nunn, Speelman and others.

**6...e6 7.f3 b5 8.g4 h6 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Bb7 11.h4 b4 12.Na4 Qa5 13.b3  
Nc5 14.a3 Nxa4 15.axb4 Qc7 16.bxa4 d5 17.e5 Nd7 18.f4 Nb6 19.f5**



(Shipov) This is the Grischuk Variation. He was the first one to introduce this way of attacking with the white pieces.

**19...Nxa4 20.fxe6 Nc3 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Bd3 Bxb4 23.Rdf1+ Kg8 24.Qf2 Ba3+  
25.Kd2 Ne4+ 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.g5!**



(Shipov) Quite an interesting novelty. In the rapid chess game of the Anand-Gelfand match in Shengyang, this move was played in the semifinal. There followed 27.Qf5 Bb4 + 28.Kd1 Qc4! 29.Ne6 (29.e6? Rf8) 29...Qd5+ 30.Ke2 (30.Bd4? Qd7! -/+ Potkin-Vorobiev/Moscow/2000/0-1(33)) 30...Qc4+ 31.Kd1 Qd5+ and White cannot avoid a perpetual check.

### 27...Bd5

Protects f7 and in many variations will join the attack on the White King through c4.

### 28.e6

(Álvarez) My novelty 27.g5 is interesting. Days ago, Shirov used it against Anand at Sydney 2000, but then he continued with 28. gxh6, which I disregarded for this game because it leads only to a draw.

(Shipov) 28.gxh6 Bb2 Black is threatening to mate the white king beginning with Qa5+.

A) The tempting 29.hxg7 does leads to a perpetual check - 29...Qa5+ 30.c3 (30.Kd1? Qa1+ and a mate in two moves.) 30...Qxc3+ 31.Kd1 Bb3+ 32.Nxb3 Qxb3+ 33.Ke1 Bc3 + 34.Bd2 Qb1+ 35.Ke2 Qb5+ 36.Ke1;

B) But, he could have played 29.Kd1! (A prophylactic measure!) Then 29...Qa5 30.Qf4! gives White's King the escape square f2 30...Rxh6 (30...Qa1+ 31.Ke2 Bc4+ 32.Kf2 Bxf1 33.hxg7 Rh7 34.Qxe4) 31.Nf5 Rh5 32.Rfg1 Kh8 33.Rg5 Rh7 34.Rxg7! and White has a crushing attack.;

C) 29.Rb1?! Shirov seems to have missed the advantage, or to be more exact, he



missed the victory. The game continued 29...Bc3+ 30.Kc1! Bxd4 31.Bxd4 e3 32.Qxe3?! Bxh1 33.Rb6 Rc8? 34.Qb3+ Qc4 35.hxg7 Rxh4 36.Rb8! This miraculous nuance helps White to win back material. 36...Qxb3 (And there is no other way. After 36...Kxg7 comes an unpleasant 37.Qg3+) 37.Rxc8+ Kxg7 38.cxb3 Rxd4 39.Rc7+ ½-½ Shirov,A-Anand,V/Sydney AUS 2000/[Shipov]

### **28...Rf8 29.Qg2 Qc4?!**

This seems to be the decisive error. Black threatens Qxd4+, but overlooks the strength of White's 31st move. Exchanging rooks immediately and looking for a possible perpetual check seems to be the best chance at this point. Because of the pawns on e6 and g5 (with g6 always a threat), the defense for Black is very difficult. This position is much more fun to play as White than Black! Several typical variations are: 29...Rxf1 30.Rxf1 Qa5+ (30...hxg5 31.Qxg5)

A) 31.Kd1 Bc5 32.Nf5 (32.Rf7 Qa1+ 33.Ke2 Bc4+ 34.Kf2 Bxd4--; 32.g6 Qa1+ 33.Ke2 Bc4+ 34.Kf2 Qxf1+ 35.Qxf1 Bxf1--;) 32...Qa1+ (32...hxg5 33.e7 Bf7 34.Qxg5 Qa1+ 35.Bc1 Ba3) 33.Bc1 Ba3 34.Qd2 Kh7! (34...Bxe6 35.g6!+-) The King escapes! 35.Nxg7 (35.e7 Bf7) 35...Qxc1+ 36.Qxc1 Bxc1 37.Rf7 Bxg5=;

B) 31.Ke2 Bc4+ 32.Kf2 Bxf1 33.Qxe4!

B1) 33...Bc4 34.Qa8+ Kh7 35.g6+ (35.Qe4+=) 35...Kxg6 36.Qe4+ (36.Qxh8 Qe5<sup>3</sup>) 36...Kf6 37.Qf3+ Kg6=;

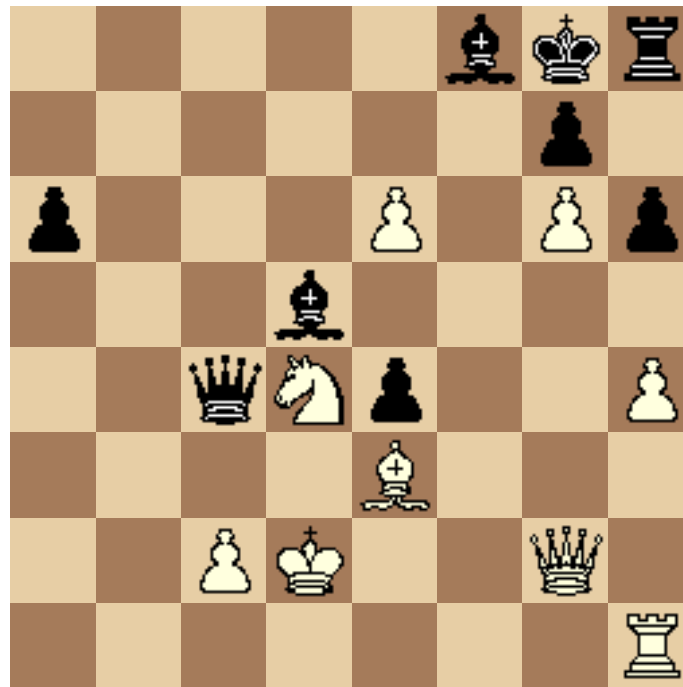
B2) 33...hxg5 34.Qa8+ Kh7 35.Qe4+ Kg8=;

C) 31.c3 31...Bc5 (31...Bb2 32.Rf8+ Kxf8 33.Qf2++-) 32.Qg3! hxg5 (32...Qa2+ 33.Nc2 Bxe3+ 34.Qxe3 Bxe6 35.g6+-) 33.hxg5 Qa2+ 34.Nc2 Bxe3+ 35.Kxe3 There are just too many lines that a final assessment can be made in a short time.

### **30.Rxf8+ Bxf8**

30...Kxf8 31.Qf2+ and it's curtains for Black

### **31.g6! 1-0**



A stake through Black's heart! The King and Rook will never get out of their tomb on g8 and h8! After some analysis, black saw that he will not be able to eliminate the "stake" on g6, so he resigned rather than frustrate himself in a hopeless position. For a very active player like GM Elwert, it is important to move on and save his energy and time for other games. Probable continuations were:

1) 31...Bb4+ This check prevents the White rook from reaching b1 32.Kd1 [32.Kc1?? Qc3-+] 32...Bxe6 [32...Qc3 33.Qf2+-; 32...Qa2 33.Qh2 Bxe6 34.Qb8+ Bf8 35.Nxe6 Qxe6 36.Rf1 Qd6+ 37.Qxd6 Bxd6 38.Rf7 h5 39.Ra7 Bf8 40.Ra8+-] 33.Qxe4 Bd7 [33... Bd5 34.Qe8+ Bf8 35.Re1 Qc3 (35...a5 36.Re2+- Threat is Rf2.) 36.Qe5+-] 34.h5 One more lock on the tomb. 34...a5 35.Qa8+ Bc8 36.Ne2+- There is the nasty threat Rh4 as well as Rf1 followed by Bd4.

2) 31...Bxe6 This pawn has to be captured otherwise it is truly hopeless 32.Rb1 Bb4+ 33.Kc1 Bd5 34.Qf2 Qc3 (34...a5 35.Nf5+-) 35.Nf5 The check on e7 limits Black from a meaningful defense. 35...Qa3+ 36.Kd1 Bc4 (36...a5 37.Qf4; 36...Be6 37.Qf4) 37.Bc5!! The mate on the back rank strikes again;

3) 31...h5 32.Rb1! Bb4+ 33.Kd1 a5 34.e7 Qc8 (34...Bxe7 35.Rb8+ Bf8 36.Nf5 and mate follows shortly) 35.Qg3 Bc4 36.Qe5 Qg4+ 37.Kc1 Ba3+ 38.Kd2 Black faces mate or the loss of his Queen.

4) 31...Qxd4+ 32.Bxd4 e3+ 33.Kxe3 Bxg2 34.Rb1! There is no defense to the threat of Rb8. 34...Bd6 35.e7 Bc6 36.Rb6

**V.Anand (2766) – V.Akopian (2693) [B80]  
GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (2), 11.01.2004**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.f3**

Preserving the Be3 against the possibility of Ng4... and supporting the g2-g4 advance

**7...e6 8.g4 Be7 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0**

All standard fare in this "English attack." White wants to continue with h4-h5, g5 and g6

**10...Nxd4**

Removing the Nd4 and its pressure on e6... and permitting b7-b5 (if b5 first, Nxc6)

**11.Bxd4 b5 12.g5 Nd7**

Not Nh5 when Be2 and f4 are very strong

**13.h4**

The g-pawn was twice attacked

**13...Qc7**

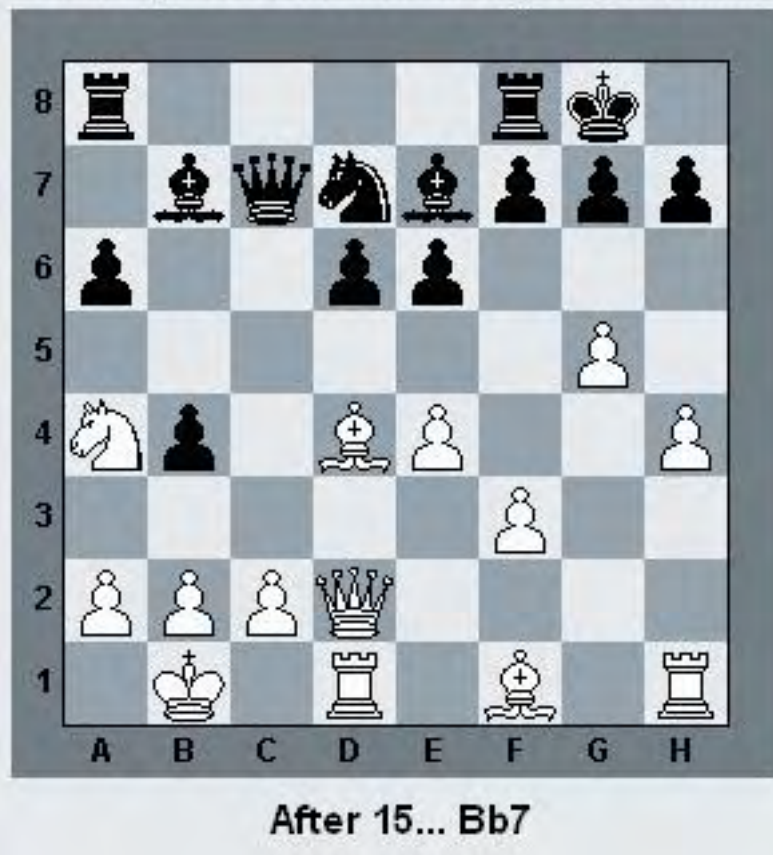
Black will normally attack with Bb7, Rfc8 and b4

**14.Kb1**

A useful precaution in many Sicilian lines, taking the king off the c-file.

**14...b4 15.Na4 Bb7**

## Anand, Viswanathan - Akopian, Vladimir



At this point the opponents leave the book. The Indian genius simply snatches the b4-pawn.

### 16.Qxb4!?

Can it be this easy. White just grabs the pawn, making black prove that the open b-file is compensation for the lost pawn. Previously no one dared open the b-file for Black. The continuation 16.b3 was tested in the games Leko – Kasparov ( Linares , 2003) and Bologan – Volokitin (Istanbul, 2003); White also tried the move 16.Qf2 in the recent game Quesada – Gelfand (Merida, 2003).

### 16...Bc6

Preparing Rfb8

### 17.Nc3 Rfb8 18.Qc4 Ne5 19.Qe2

Not Bxe5 dxe5 activating the Be7

### 19...Qa5

With many ideas, including Qa3. The alternative was 19...Rb4. Akopian opts for another attacking setup with the queen on the front line.

## **20.f4!**

Nicely played. 20...Qa3 21.Nd5!

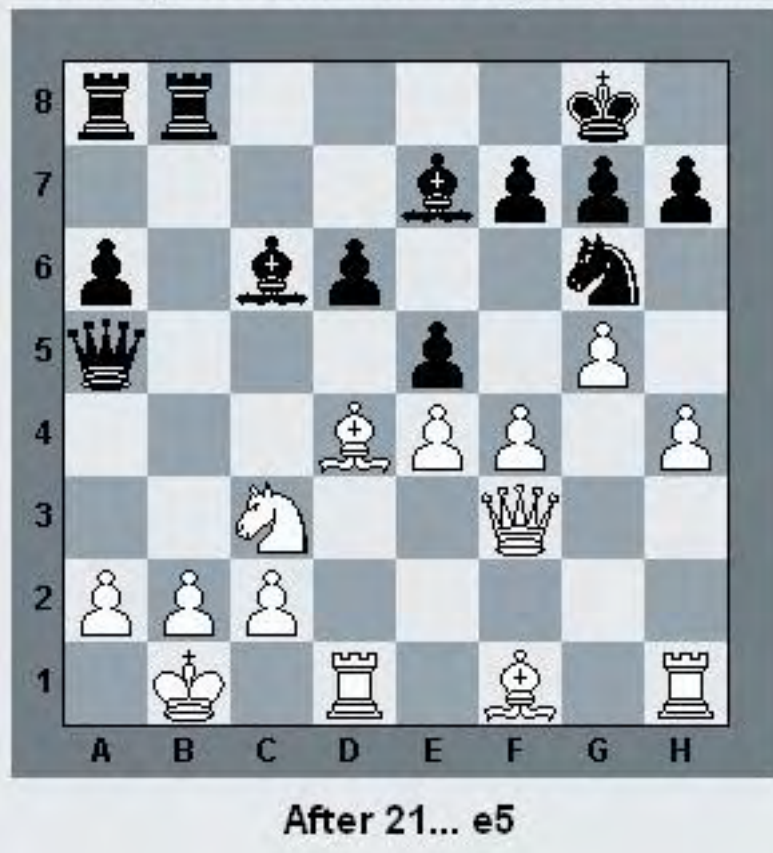
## **20...Ng6**

In the depths of the variation 20...Qb4 I found very interesting lines: 21.b3 Ng6 22.Qf3 a5 (maybe it is not the best move, but it looks logical) 23.h5 Nxf4 (otherwise White's attack is faster) 24.Qxf4 e5 25.Bxe5 dxe5 26.Qxe5. There are two paths here: if Black defends with 26...h6!?, then White sacrifices a piece for a strong attack - 27.Bb5! (27.gxh6 Bf6) 27...Bxb5 28.Nd5 Bd6 29.Qf5 Qc5 30.gxh6; in case of a counterattack with 26...a4, White obtains the material advantage with a temporary sacrifice - 27.h6 Bf8 28.Bc4! Qxc4 29.Rd8!. In both cases White is clearly better. 20...Qa3 21.Nd5 exd5 22.fxe5

## **21.Qf3 e5!**

Inferior is 21...Nxf4 22.Qxf4 e5 23.Qd2 exd4 24.Qxd4 Rb4 25.Bc4. Black does not have sufficient compensation for a pawn.

## Anand, Viswanathan - Akopian, Vladimir



### 22. Bf2!

White wisely refrains from 22.fxe5? His decision is sound from both positional and tactical standpoints. First, there is no need to activate Black's dark-squared bishop; second, White saw the line 22...dxe5 23.Bf2 Rxb2+! 24.Kxb2 Qa3+ 25.Ka1 Bxe4! 26.Qh3 Bxh1, and Black emerge with an extra pawn in a very comfortable position.

### 22...Qb4!

The move 22...Nxf4, regaining the pawn, suggests itself. However, after 23.Bc4 Qb4 24.Bb3 a5 25.a4 White won't have problems with his king till the end of the game, whereas Black has to reckon with Be3 followed by a pawn assault on the kingside.

### 23.b3 Nxf4

I thought that Akopian had the better of it here. How will Anand stop a6-a5-a4 and check out that strong Nf4!

### 24.Be1!?

Threatening Nd5. After 24.Bg3 a5 25.Bxf4 exf4 26.Nd5 Bxd5 27.Rxd5 Black would have

had an extra tempo for his attack with 27...a4 compared to what happens in the game.

### 24...Qc5

But perhaps a5 was better 24...a5!? 25.Nd5 Qb7 26.Bc4 (26.Nxe7+ Qxe7 27.Bd2 a4 28.Bxf4 axb3 29.cxb3 Ra4-/+ ) 26...a4.

### 25.Bg3 a5

Again Black had an alternative, 25...Ne6

### 26.Bxf4 exf4 27.Nd5 Bd8

On 27...Bxd5 White captures with the rook: 28.Rxd5. I am not sure, though, that after 28...Qa3 29.Bc4 a4 he can get to the f7-pawn.

### 28.Qxf4

Anand is up a pawn again .



28...a4 29.Rh2

Wonderful defense. The rook holds the fort from the side

**29...Bxd5 30.exd5**

White can't play 30.Rxd5 in view of 30...Qc3 , and if 31.Rh3, then 31...axb3! 32.Rxc3 (32.cxb3 Rxb3+ 33.axb3 Ra1#) 32...bxa2+ .

**30...Ba5**

Here 30...Qc3 is met with 31.Rh3. Since White controls the first rank, the variation 31...axb3?? 32.Rxc3 bxa2+ 33.Ka1 does not work for Black. 30...axb3 31.cxb3 Qa3 32.Rc1 Rb4 33.Rc4+/=

**31.Qd4**

Up material, white seeks the exchange of Qs. The queen is better placed on this square compared to the line 31.Qc4 Qa3.

**31...Qa3**

31...Qc7!?

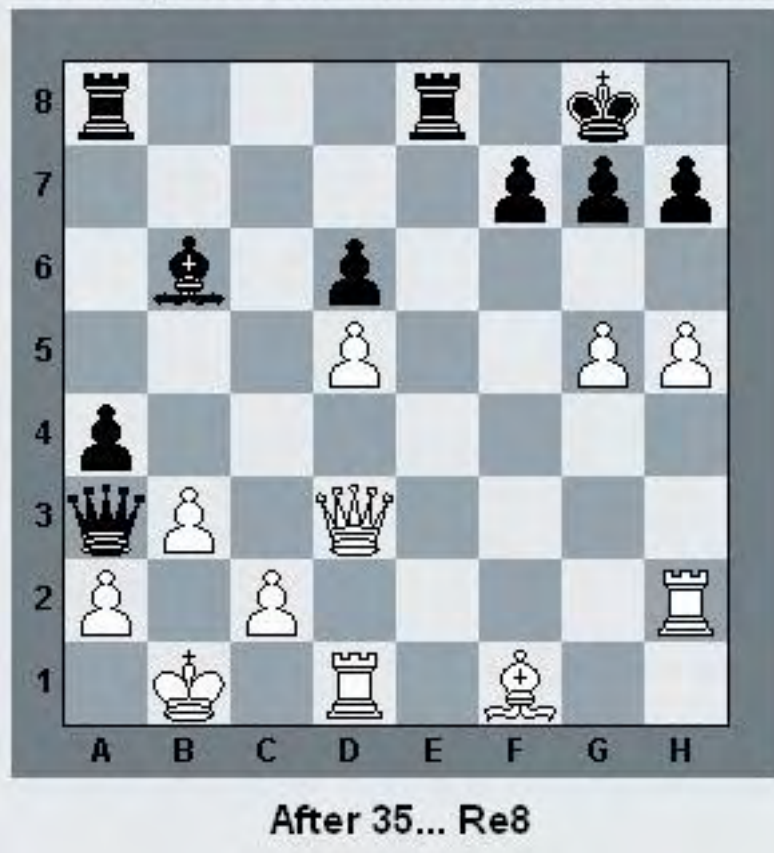
**32.h5 Bb6 33.Qc3**

After 33.Qb2 Qxb2+ 34.Kxb2 White's extra pawn is hardly convertible in the bishops-of-opposite-color endgame.

**33...Ba5 34.Qd4 Bb6 35.Qd3 Re8**



## Anand, Viswanathan - Akopian, Vladimir



Black could have maintained the balance with 35...Bd8!? 36.Qe3 (36.g6?? Bf6; 36.Rg2? Bxg5!) 36...Bb6 37.Qc3 Ba5.

### 36.g6!

Black's attack has stalled, but white's comes crashing through

### 36...fxg6?!

Starting from this moment Vladimir reeled off several bad moves. Too late is the above-mentioned 36...Bd8 - 37.Rf2! hxg6 38.hxg6 Bf6 (38...fxg6 39.Bh3) 39.Rxf6! gxf6 40.gxf7+ Kxf7 and White checkmates with 41.Qh7+ Kf8 42.Qh6+ Kf7 43.Bd3 axb3 44.Qg6+ Ke7 45.Re1+.

However, the best move, 36...Re3!, keeps the tension. For example, 37.gxf7+ (37.Qc4!?) 37...Kxf7 38.Qf5+ (38.Qxh7 Bd4!) 38...Kg8 39.Bd3 Bd4! 40.Qxh7+ Kf7 41.c3 Bxc3 42.Rf2+ (42.Qg6+ Kg8 43.Rf1 Rxd3 44.Qxd3 axb3) 42...Ke7 43.Qg6 axb3! 44.Qg5+ Bf6 45.Qxe3+ Be5 46.Qg5+ Bf6. It looks like Black comes off clear.

### 37.hxg6 h6

Tring to lock up the pawns, but weakening the back rank. The sequence 37...Re3 38.

gxh7+ Kh8 39.Qc4 was worth a try, although the exchange on g6 favors White.

### **38.Bh3**

Developing for the first time, with a bang. The idea is Be6

### **38...Bd8?**

The continuation 38...axb3 39.cxb3 Re3 40.Be6+ Kh8 41.Qb5+- Bd4 42.Qb7 was relatively better for Black.

### **39.Be6+ Rxe6**

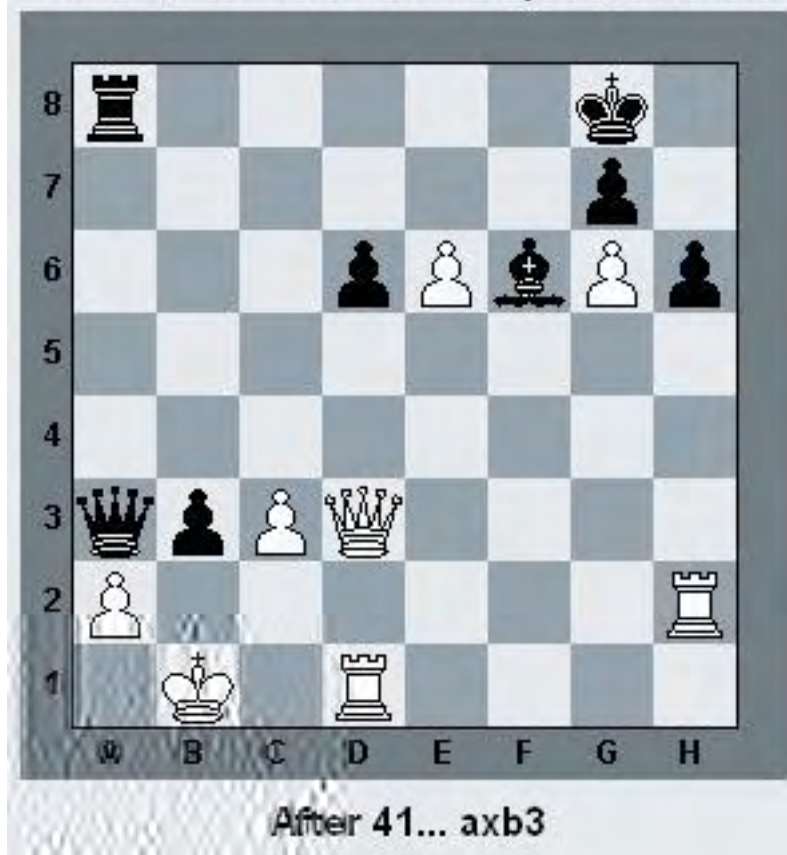
This sacrifice is forced. After 39...Kh8 White delivers checkmate with 40.Rxh6+! gxh6 41.Qd4+; or 39...Kf8 40.Rf1+ Bf6 41.Rxf6+! gxf6 42.g7+! Ke7 (42...Kxg7 43.Qg3+) 43.g8Q Rxg8 44.Qh7+ .

### **40.dxe6 Bf6 41.c3!**

41.c4 axb3 42.Qxb3 Qxb3+ 43.axb3 Ra1+ 44.Kc2 Ra2+-+

### **41...axb3**

## Anand, Viswanathan - Akopian, Vladimir



### 42.Qc4!

White clarifies the situation with this elegant, non-obvious defensive move.

### 42...Qa5

On 42...Rb8 the best reaction is 43.Rb2 ( the endgame after 43.e7+ Kh8 44.Rb2 bxa2+ 45.Qxa2 Qxa2+ 46.Kxa2 Ra8+ 47.Kb1 Bxe7 is no picnic for Black either, but why should White give up his pawns? )

### 43.e7+ Kh8 44.Re1 Be5

More stubborn was 44...Re8 45.axb3 Qf5+ 46.Qe4, although the e7 pawn is immune anyway, due to the exposed Black king

### 45.Qc6

Even stricter was 45.a4! followed by Qf7 and Rxh6+ Actually, after the move made by Anand all Akopian has at his disposal is a death-check - 45.Qc6 bxa2+ 46.Kc2

Black resigned. **1-0**

# Perenyi Attack

## Line Analysis [B81]

**1.e4 c5** The Sicilian Defense **2.Nf3** "Knights before Bishops"... because we usually know exactly where the knights are going. **2...d6** Perhaps the most flexible continuation, though I prefer 2...e6 **3.d4** The natural follow to Nf3 **3...cxd4** exchanging a flank pawn for a central pawn **4.Nxd4** Qxd4 is playable, but the queen is exposed to attack in the center **4...Nf6** Attacking the e4-pawn **5.Nc3** Developing the N to its natural square, defending the e-pawn and eyeing the key d5-square. **5...a6** The Najdorf, played with often the idea of ...e5 because the Nd4 cannot now go to b5

**6.Be3** Perhaps the most popular move today. Bg5 was all the rage (thanks to Fischer) in the 1960s and 1970s.

**6...e6 7.g4** The Perenyi Attack. At the recent Wijk aan Zee tournament, f3 and Qd2 (the English Attack) was a familiar guest.

**7...e5** White appears to be in trouble. The e5-pawn attacks the Nd4 and Black has two attacks (Nf6 and Bc8) upon the white g4-pawn.

**8.Nf5** Defending the g-pawn by blocking the attack of the Bc8, but of course, black has...

**8...g6** and now, if the Nf5 moves, Black will win the white g-pawn. But Perenyi discovered that white gets much compensation by leaving the N on f5!

**9.Bg2** [ 9.g5 also playable, and more often played 9...gxf5 10.exf5 And white has obvious compensation since Ng8 f6 leaves three Black pieces "in-the-box." ]

**9...gxf5 10.exf5 d5 11.Qe2 d4 12.0-0-0** Diagram



Would you rather have white or black here? \*

Loek van Wely's heroic uphill-fight against the Perenyi variation has held his Dutch fans enthralled. There was a sigh of relief after Shirov's win against Topalov in the first round of Corus A. Not because the Dutch public has anything against Topalov, but for quite another reason: this was one game that Van Wely didn't have to lose anymore. Van Wely had tried the line with Black against Shirov last year in Polanica Zdroj and he was beaten in a very beautiful and spectacular way. For clarity's sake I will call this game P1, where P stands for Perenyi.

**P1: White Shirov Black Van Wely 1. e2-e4 c7-c5 2. Ng1-f3 d7-d6 3. d2-d4 c5xd4 4. Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6 5. Nb1-c3 a7-a6 6. Bc1-e3 e7-e6 7. g2-g4** The variation named after the Hungarian master Bela Perenyi. White is prepared to sacrifice a piece.

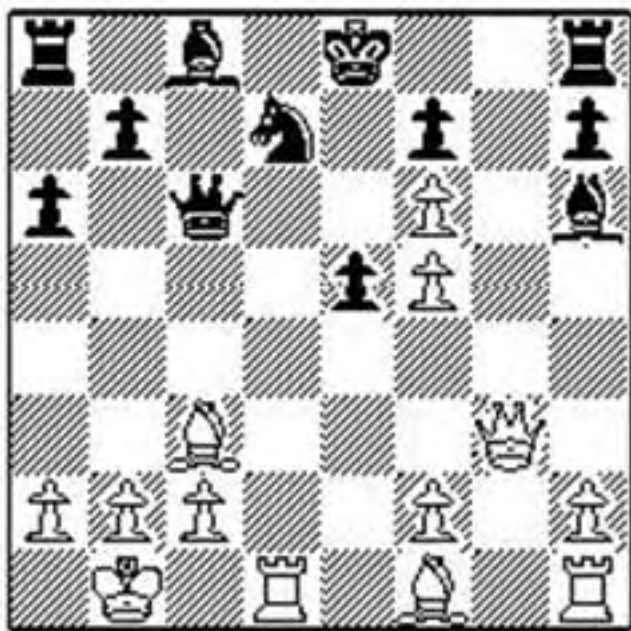
**7...e6-e5 8. Nd4-f5 g7-g6 9. g4-g5 g6xf5 10. e4xf5 d6-d5 11. Qd1-f3 d5-d4 12. O-O-O Nb8-d7 13. Be3-d2 Qd8-c7** One example of the storms that Van Wely had withstood in this line is Nijboer-Van Wely, Dutch championship 1999: 13...dxc3 14. Bxc3 Qb6 15. gxf6 Bb4 16. Bc4 Bxc3 17. Bxf7+ Kxf7 18. Qh5+ Kxf6 19. Qh6+ and now Black bravely avoided perpetual check with 19...Kxf5. Later it ended as a draw after all.

**14. g5xf6** In an earlier round of the Polanica Zdroj tournament Shirov had played 14. Bd3 against Svidler. Black got a good position.

**14...d4xc3 15. Bd2xc3 Qc7-c6 16. Qf3-g3** This Rook sacrifice had obviously been prepared by Shirov after his game against Svidler.

**16...Bf8-h6+** For what might happen after 16...Qxh1, see the next game.

**17. Kc1-b1** (See Diagram)



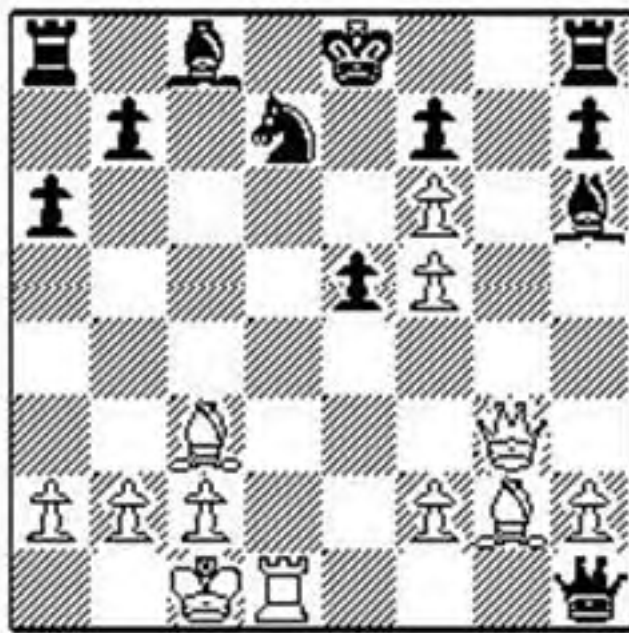
Can Black take the Rook now? It is extremely complicated and at the time my computer and I reached the conclusion that the most likely result would be a draw by perpetual check, given by Black: 17...Qxh1 18. Bxe5 Qe4 19. Bc7 Bd2 20. Bd3 Qc6 21. a3 Nc5 22. Rxd2 Nxd3 23. Re2+ Be6 24. cxd3 Qh1+. This conclusion might well be wrong.

**17...Bh6-f4 18. Qg3-d3 0-0 19. Rh1-g1+ Kg8-h8 20. Bc3-b4 Rf8-g8 21. Rg1xg8 + Kh8xg8 22. Bb4-e7** Protecting f6, a nail in Black's coffin. White is doing fine now and went on to score a brilliant win.

**22...h7-h6 23. Bf1-e2 Nd7xf6 24. Qd3-d8+ Kg8-h7 25. Qd8-f8 Bc8-e6 26. Qf8xa8 Be6xf5 27. Kb1-a1 Nf6-d5 28. Qa8-f8 Qc6-e6 29. Be7-c5 Bf5xc2 30. Rd1-g1 Bc2-g6 31. h2-h4 Bf4-h2 32. Rg1-d1 Nd5-f4 33. Rd1-d8** Black resigned. After this, many players would have given up this line, but Van Wely is a stubborn man. So, when he met Shirov again at the Istanbul Olympiad he copied their earlier game until move 16 and then came up with a novelty.

**P2: White Shirov Black Van Wely 16...Qc6xh1** So this time he takes the Rook, but not in the way suggested by annotators after his loss in P1. They preferred 16...Bh6+ 17. Kb1 Qxh1.

**17. Bf1-g2 Bf8-h6+** (See Diagram)



For now White has an extra possibility: he can win Black's Queen.

**18. Bc3-d2 Bh6xd2+ 19. Kc1xd2 Qh1xg2** A very strange move. Can this Bishop really be stronger than the Rook on d1?

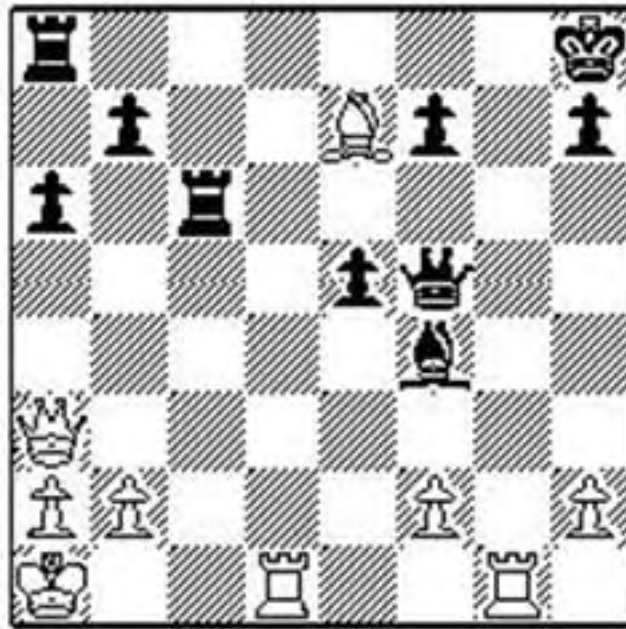
**20. Qg3xg2 a6-a5 21. f2-f4 e5xf4 22. Qg2-g7 Rh8-f8 23. Rd1-e1+ Ke8-d8 24.**

**Re1-e7 Kd8-c7**

**25. Qg7xf8** Black resigned. This was quick and painful, but still Van Wely was not convinced. So, a few weeks later in the German team championship he tried the line again in

**P3: White Kalka Black Van Wely** Apparently Van Wely had reached the conclusion that taking the Rook was no good. This time he followed P1 till White's 20. Bb4 and then came up with a prepared novelty.

**20...Nd7-c5 21. Qd3-c3 Qc6xf6 22. Bb4xc5 Bc8xf5 23. Qc3-a3 Rf8-c8 24. Bf1-d3 Qf6-e6 25. Bd3xf5 Qe6xf5 26. Bc5-e7 Rc8xc2 27. Kb1-a1 Rc2-c6** (See Diagram)

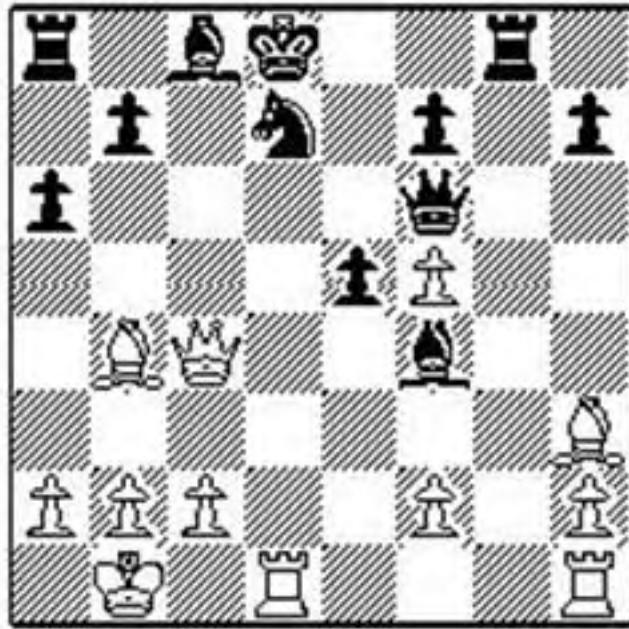


Here 28. Qa5, as indicated by the German magazine *Schach*, would have spelled big trouble for Black again. White however played 28. Bd8 and eventually Black won. So Black had finally scored with this line, but it had been a narrow escape and one wouldn't think any Black player so stubborn to dare a repeat. But then in the first round of the Corus tournament there was

**P4: White Shirov-Black Topalov** Again P1 was followed, this time till White's 18. Qd3. Then Topalov showed his prepared novelty.

**18...Rh8-g8 19. Bf1-h3 Ke8-d8 20. Bc3-b4 Qc6xf6 21. Qd3-c4** (See Diagram)





Already Black is facing disaster.

**21...Rg8-g5 22. Rd1-d6 Qf6-g7 23. f5-f6 Rg5-g1+ 24. Bh3-f1** Black resigned

This was really spectacularly bad opening preparation by Topalov. Three moves after his novelty he was already lost. How is this possible? It must be due to the modern habit of computer-assisted preparation. The computer keeps saying that Black is better in this line. An unassisted human would look at Black's King, shrink in horror and say to himself: whatever the objective merits, I don't want to play this with Black.

Would Van Wely be convinced? It seemed so, because when he faced Shirov in the sixth round, he gave up his beloved Sicilian and defended with the French. In the pressroom his second Suat Atalik was asked why. "It would have been nice if the two of you had found a sideline in this variation to beat Shirov this time." But Atalik answered: "Even God cannot beat Shirov in this variation."

It's not easy to beat Shirov with Black anyway. Taking up the French didn't help Van Wely; he was crushed in 28 moves.

**Shirov,A (2746) - Van Wely,L (2643) [B81]  
Rubinstein mem Polanica Zdroj (8), 25.08.2000**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.Nf5 g6 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 11.Qf3 d4 12.O-O-O Nbd7 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.gxf6 dxc3 15.Bxc3 Qc6 16.Qg3 Bh6+ 17.Kb1 Bf4 18.Qd3 O-O



Castling to safety? Or castling into the storm?

**19.Rg1+ Kh8**

First law in operation. The Black king cannot move. All white needs is check.

**20.Bb4 Rg8 21.Rxg8+ Kxg8 22.Be7 h6**

Creating some breathing room for the king

**23.Be2 Nxf6 24.Qd8+ Kh7**

[ 24...Qe8 25.Bxf6; 24...Ne8 25.Bf3 Qb5 26.b3 Kh7 27.a4 Qxb3+ 28.cxb3 Bxf5+ 29.Ka2 Rxd8 30.Rxd8 e4 31.Rxe8 exf3 32.h4+/-]

**25.Qf8 Be6**

[ 25...Qe8 26.Qxe8 Nxe8 27.Rd8 Ng7 28.f6+/-]

**26.Qxa8 Bxf5 27.Ka1 Nd5 28.Qf8+- Qe6 29.Bc5**

[ 29.Bh4+/-]

**29...Bxc2 30.Rg1 Bg6 31.h4 Bh2 32.Rd1 Nf4?**

[ 32...Bf4 33.h5 Bf5 34.Qd8+/-]

**33.Rd8**

with mate on h8

**1-0**

# Shirov,A (2746) - Van Wely,L (2643) [B81] Istanbul ol (Men) Istanbul (5), 01.11.2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.Nf5 g6 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 11.Qf3 d4 12.O-O-O Nbd7 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.gxf6 dxc3 15.Bxc3 Qc6 16.Qg3 Qxh1



Black grabs the rook, but pays a heavier price

**17.Bg2 Bh6+ 18.Bd2**

[ 18.Kb1?? Qxd1#]

**18...Bxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Qxg2 20.Qxg2**

Material is roughly equal, but white has a huge lead in space and time.

**20...a5 21.f4**

The tripled pawns provide a fun picture. F4 pries open the e-file.

**21...exf4 22.Qg7**

guarding the f6 pawn and preparing Re1-e7.

**22...Rf8 23.Re1+ Kd8 24.Re7 Kc7**

A mistake, but white was already winning. [ 24...Ra6 25.Rxd7+ Kxd7 26.Qxf8+-]

**25.Qxf8**

**1-0**

# Shirov,A (2718) - Topalov,V (2718) [B81] Corus Wijk aan Zee (1), 13.01.2001

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3**

The fashionable English Attack, idea f3, Qd2, 0-0-0, and g4

**6...e6 7.g4**

The Perenyi Attack. Like the Keres Attack, with the idea of a quick g4-g5

**7...e5**

This appears to win the g-pawn straight away

**8.Nf5**

Blocking Bxg4

**8...g6**

If the Nf5 moves, Black will win the g-pawn.

**9.g5**

Here's the point. White sacs the Bf5 for quick development.

**9...gxf5 10.exf5 d5**

idea d4. If instead Ng8 11.f6 traps the white kingside.

**11.Qf3**

Or Qe2 [11.gxf6 d4 12.Bc4 Qc7]

**11...d4**

Forking the Nc3 and Be3. White can delay the loss of a second piece with...

**12.0-0-0**

Delaying the loss of a second piece, but black can block or sidestep the pin on the Qd8

**12...Nbd7**

re-initializing the threat and developing a piece

**13.Bd2**

Offering a second piece.

**13...Qc7**

OUT of the line of fire, and defending e5. [ 13...dxc3 14.Bxc3 Ng8 leaves black dangerously undeveloped.]

**14.gxf6 dxc3 15.Bxc3 Qc6**

The f-pawns will remain weak. Up a piece, Topalov seeks an exchange of queens. 15... Nxf6 Giving white hope for an attack on e5. [ 15...Rg8; 15...Bh6+]

**16.Qg3**

Down a piece, white seeks continued activity

**16...Bh6+**

16...Qxh1 17.Bg2 Bh6+ 18.Bd2 Bxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Qxd1+ 20.Kxd1

**17.Kb1 Bf4**

17...Qxh1 Black trails too much in development to go after the Rh1 18.Bxe5 Qe4 19.Bc7 Bd2 20.Bg2 Qd4 21.Ba5 Qxf6 22.Bxd2 Qxf5 23.Re1 +- -

**18.Qd3 Rg8**



18...Qxh1 19.Qd6+- ; 18...Nxf6 19.Qd8#

**19.Bh3 Kd8**

idea Kc7-b8 [19...Qxf6!?]

**20.Bb4!**

idea Kc7 Bd6+

**20...Qxf6 21.Qc4**

Keeping the king on the center, and idea Rd6

**21...Rg5**

Preparing Qg7 [21...b5 22.Ba5+ Ke8 23.Qc7]

**22.Rd6**

A powerful entry square for the rook

**22...Qg7 23.f6**



[ 23.Ba5+ Ke8 24.f6 Rg1+ ( 24...Nxf6 25.Rd8+ Ke7 26.Qb4#) 25.Bf1+-]

**23...Rg1+ 24.Bf1!**

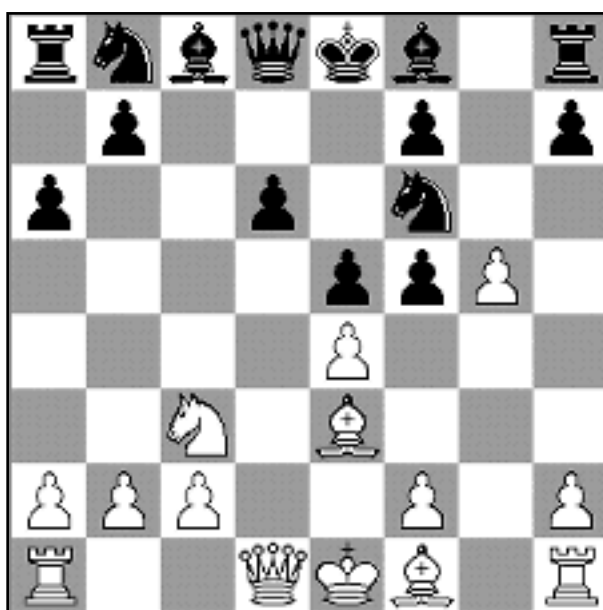
[ 24.Bf1 Qg2 (24...Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Qg2 26.Ba5+ Ke8 27.Re6+ fxe6 28.Qxe6+ Kf8 29.Bb4+) 25.Ba5+ Ke8 26.Re6+ Kf8 ( 26...fxe6 27.Qxe6+ Kf8 28.Bb4+ Nc5 29.Bxc5#) 27.Bb4+ ( 27.Qb4+ Kg8 28.Re8+ Nf8 29.Rxf8#) 27...Kg8 28.Re8+]

**1-0**

Peter Svidler's handling of the so-called **Perenyi Attack** may well turn Black players off 6...e6 altogether. Which means we'll probably be seeing more practical tests of Kasparov's favourite **6...Ng4**. Svidler's most important novelty was introduced in his game against Gelfand:

## **Svidler (2689) - Gelfand (2681) Biel (4), 2000**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.Nf5 g6 9.g5 gxf5**



**10.exf5!**

With his seventh move, White pretty much signalled that he was playing for an all out attack, so the fact that he's willing to sacrifice a piece (or more) to maintain the initiative, should come as no surprise.

**10...d5 11.gxf6 d4 12.Bc4 Qc7 13.Qd3 dxe3**

13...dxc3 has yielded better practical results, but this really doesn't change the flavour of the position. Black's hair is on fire any way you look at it.

**14.O-O-O exf2**



### 15. Bxf7+!

In for a penny, in for the whole check book! I don't think White can do without this second piece sacrifice, since he needs to smoke Black's king out to continue the assault.

15...Kxf7 (15...Qxf7?? 16.Qd8 mate) 16.Qd5+ Kxf6 17.Ne4+ Ke7



### 18. f6+!

Amazingly enough, this move has never been tried before! White used to continue with Nd6, but Van Wely managed to put this move under a cloud in his encounter with Topalov in this year's Frankfurt Masters. This game continued: 18.Nd6 Bh6+ 19.Kb1 Kf6 20.Rhf1 Rf8 21.Rxf2 Nc6 22.Qc4 Kg7 23.Rg1+ Kh8 24.Rfg2 Bg7 25.Rxg7 Qxg7 26.Rxg7 Kxg7 27.Qg4+ Kh8 and Black had escaped the attack with a substantial material plus.

**18...Ke8 19.f7+ Ke7**

Last chance for 19...Qxf7?? 20.Qd8 mate.

**20.Qd2**



**20...Qc6**

20...Qb6 was suggested by American GM Lubosh Kavalek, and this is also what our German friend Fritz wants to play, but I think Black's position is beyond salvation at this point. Of course, if you have a lot of spare time on your hands, you can move up to the mountains and spend the next couple of years trying find a way out for Black. Who knows? Maybe there is one!

**21.Qg5+ Kxf7 22.Rhf1 Bc5 23.Nxf2 Nd7 24.Ng4+ Ke8 25.Nxe5 Qe6 26.Rfe1**



Yes, White is two pieces down, but all his remaining firepower is now aimed at Black's king.

**26...Nf6**

26...Rg8 must have been a better try, but Black's future still looks pretty grim after 27. Qh5+ Rg6 28.Nxg6 Be3+ 29.Kb1 hxg6 30.Qh8+ Nf8 31.Rd3 . White is winning back most of his material, and the attack will continue with undiminished force.

**27.Nd3 Be7 28.Rxe6 Bxe6 29.Re1 Nd7(?)**

A blunder, but Black was dead anyway. Gelfand resigned before Svidler could play Rxe6. **1-0**

Dutch adventurer Loek Van Wely invited Svidler to play the same variation, but Svidler demonstrated the versatility of White's position by employing a more "positional" piece sacrifice. In this line, Black is spared the dubious pleasure of having his king chased around the board with an axe, but his position might still be too hot to handle.

## Svidler (2689) - Van Wely (2643) Biel (9), 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.Nf5 g6



**9.Bg2!?**

Svidler varies from his round three encounter with Gelfand. It's not clear to me whether or not he was afraid of Loek's home cooking, but surprising your opponent always has a certain psychological impact. Imagine the Dutchman's frustration at being denied the opportunity of showing his homework!

**9...d5 10.Bg5 gxf5 11.Nxd5**

11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Nxd5, which Ponomarev used against Gelfand in round one, is also interesting.

**11...Be7 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.exf5**



White only has to pawns for the sacrificed piece, but Black will be unable to make his extra material count if he fails to bring his pieces out in time. The fact that he lacks a secure haven for his king, is very important.

**13...h5?!**

I'm not sure what Black wants to achieve with this thrust. After all, opening the h-file favours White.

**14.h3 Bd7 15.Qd3 hxg4? 16.O-O-O!**

Mobilising his remaining forces is White's top priority in this variation.

**16...gxh3 17.Rxh3 Rxh3 18.Qxh3 Bc6 19.Qh7 Kf8**



## 20.Be4

Threatening 21.Rg1 Bg5+ 22.f4!

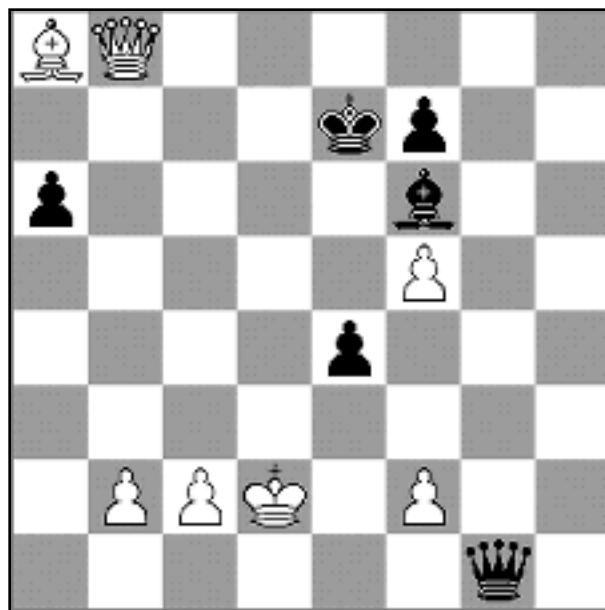
**20...Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Qd7 22.Bf3 Qc7 23.Rg1 Qc4**

23...Nc6 would have failed to 24.Rg8+ Ke7 25.Rxa8; Maybe Black should have tried to evacuate his king with 23...Ke7 24.Bd5 Kd6.

**24.Bxb7 e4**

Black may as well try to obtain some counterplay, since his queenside was doomed anyway: 24...Ra7 25.Qg8+ Ke7 26.Qxb8.

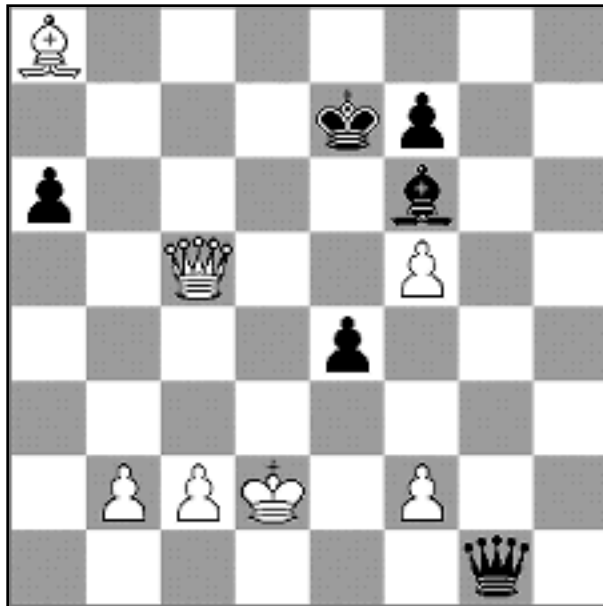
**25.Qg8+ Ke7 26.Bxa8 Qxa2 27.Qxb8 Qa1+ 28.Kd2 Qxg1**



Now White is even a pawn up, but more importantly: It's his turn to punch! Black's king turns out to be no match for White's queen and bishop.

**29.Qb4+ Kd7 30.Qb7+ Kd8 31.Qb6+ Ke7 32.Qc5+**





**32...Kd8**

32...Kd7 33.Bc6+ Kc8 34.Bb5+ Kb7 35.Qc6+ and White mates.

**33.Qd6+ Kc8**

33...Ke8 34.Bc6 mate

**34.Qc6+ resigns.** 34.Qc6+ Kd8 (34...Kb8 35.Qb7 mate) 35.Qxf6+ and White's material advantage decides the issue. **1-0**

## 6.Be3 Ng4

Opening: B90 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation with 6.Be3 Ng4

### Introduction:

Since we have already seen in this section, *the variation 6.Be3 Ng4 in the Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation is of Maxima the present time*. The investigation in the openings is today very demanding, and it is not only necessary to look for a specific newness, but also a new plan that is difficult to anticipate for the rival. Shirov played 11.Nf5 against Judit Polgar, to that defeated widely by 5,5:0,5 in the Prague at the beginning of Julio. Clear that from that moment, the blacks have found resources and now *Topalov tries another novel plan: 12... Be6*. The tactically important position happens in play 22. Apparently the blacks are well, by their better structure of laborers and its Bg7. But the reality indicates as opposed to that the white have to their disposition the Nd5 jump and the rupture h4, which the Blacks do not obtain "armar" a sufficient defense.

**Topalov, V (2690) - Gelfand, B (2713) [ B90 ]**  
**15.Final ECC, Bugojno (3), 31.10.1999**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.h3 Ne5**

A variant of Maxima the present time. Within the modern approach of the openings, a specific newness not only looks for, but also a new plan that is difficult to anticipate for the rival. Shirov played here 11.Nf5 against Judit Polgar, to that defeated widely by 5,5:0,5 in the Prague at the beginning of Julio. Clear that from that moment, the blacks have found resources and now Topalov tries another novel plan.

**11.f3**

[ the Yugoslav Encyclopedia volume B á. edition only mentions 11.Be2 Nbc6  
**A)** The white cannot wait for great thing of 12.Nxc6 For example: 12... bxc6 13.0-0

Qb6 14.Rb1 Be6 15.Qd2 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Bxc4 17.Rfe1 Rd8 18.Kh1 Qd4 with very comfortable game for the blacks, Perunovic - Perovic, JUG-chT2 1994;

**B)** more natural is 12.Nf5 and after 12... Bxf5 13.exf5 Nd4 14.Bg4 (14.Bd3 Nxd3+ 15.Qxd3 Qa5 16.f6 Bxf6 17,0-0 Rc8 18.Rae1 Rxc3 19.bxc3 Ne6 20.Qf3 Qxc3 21.Qxb7 0-0 22.Qxa6 Nd4 23.Qd3 Qxd3 24.cxd3 Ra8 25.f4 Rxa2 26.fxg5 ½ - ½ Thorhallsson, T-Gallagher, J/Forli op (05)/1992/) 14... Nc4 15.Rb1 Nxb2 16.Rxb2 Qa5 17,0-0 Qxc3 18.Rxb7 Bf6 with uncertain position, Misailovic, N-Petrosian, A/ JUG-chT2 1994;

**C)** 12.Nb3 12... Be6 About this position, Ftacnik thinks acertadamente that in spite of the weaknesses of d5 and f5, the blacks have sufficient compensation, since all their pieces are active and the structure of laborers is healthy. ( Interesting Ng6 is 12... 13.Qd2 Be6 14.h4 Nxh4 15.Bxh4 gxh4 16.Rxh4 Rc8 17,0-0-0 Qb6 18.Bg4 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Bxg4 20.Rxg4 Ne5 21.Rg3 with uncertain game, Tolnai - Pigusov, Final EUCup Lyon/1994 ) 13.Nd5 Rc8 14,0-0 Ng6 15.c3 Be5

**C1)** 16.Bxe5 Ncxe5 17.Ne3 Qb6 18.Qd4! (18.Nd4 Qxb2 19.Rb1 Qxa2 with black advantage) 18... Qxd4

**C1a)** 19.cxd4! Nf4 20.Rfe1 (20.Bxa6 bxa6 21.dxe5 dxe5+ =) 20... Ned3 21.Bxd3 Nxd3 22.Re2 Bxb3 23.axb3+ = up to here mentioned ECHO B, analysis of goes Wely.;

**C1b)** 19.Nxd4! 19... Nf4 20.Bd1! (20.Rfe1) 20... Bc4! 21.Nxc4 Nxc4 22.g3 Nd3 23.b3 (23.Bg4 e6 24.b3 Nce5μ) 23... Nd2 24.Bg4 Rxc3 25.Rfd1

**C1b1)** But the blacks still have a good option without sacrificing material: 25... h5? 26.Bf5 (26.Be2 Nxf2) 26... e5! 27.Rxd2 exd4 28.Kg2 Ke7 29.Rad1 Ne5+ =;

**C1b2)** Also deserves consideration 25... Nxe4 26.Ne2 Ndc5 27.Nxc3 Nxc3 28.Rdc1 Nd5 29.Bf3 uncertain Nb4;

**C1b3)** 25... Nxf2? A very interesting combination, that granted to the blacks good game, Svidler - Wely, Groningen 1995, Inf.65/241, and CBM Go 51/[Ftacnik ];

**C2)** 16.Bg4 16... Bxg4 17.Qxg4 e6 18.Ne3 h5 19.Qf3 Bxg3 20.Qxg3 Nf4 21.Kh1 Ne5 22.Rad1 h4 23.Qh2 Qb6+ = Szalanczy, E-Ruck, R/Budapest 1993 ]

**11... Nbc6 12.Bf2 Be6!?!N**



A new idea, that one also occurs in some variants of the Yugoslav Dragoon. [ knew 12... e6 13.Qd2 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bd7 15.Nd1 0-0 16.Ne3 Rc8 17,0-0-0 Bc6 18.h4? ( We suggested to also analyze 18.Bc3) 18... Bf6 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Be2 Qe7 21.Bc3 Rfd8 22.Bb4 With clear advantage of the white, Dutreeuw, M-Van Mechelen, J/ Antwerp 1997] are developed, taking advantage of that the Nxe6 change is not generally satisfactory for the white.

### 13.Qd2

[ the lovers of this variant can investigate 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qd2 without still announcing where the white King will be located. ]

### 13... Rc8 14.0-0-0

[ does not convince the capture 14.Nxe6 by 14... fxe6 15.h4 Na5 with contrajuego ]

### 14... Qa5 15.Nb3

[ If 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.a3 (It is necessary to avoid Nb4) 16... b5 with contrajuego ]

### 15... Qc7 16.a3 Bxb3

[ Or 16... Na5 17.Nxa5 Qxa5 18.Bd4 0-0 19.h4 with initiative ]

### 17.cxb3 Na5 18.Qc2 Ng6 19.Kb1 b5 20.Rc1 Qb7 21.b4 Nc4 22.Bxc4 Rxc4 23. Qd2



A position only in good appearance for the blacks by its better structure of laborers and its Bg7. The reality indicates that the white have to their disposition the Nd5 jump and the rupture h4, that demolishes the black scheme.

**23... 0-0 24.Nd5 Rfc8 25.Rxc4 Rxc4 26.Ne3 Rc7 27.h4 e6?**

[ A little better era 27... Nf4! but anyway 28.Nf5 is strong; And if 27... gxh4 is hard also 28.Nf5 ]

**28.hxg5 hxg5 29.Ng4!**

Touching to the neuralgic points f6 and h6. [ However, after 29.Qxd6 Rd7 30.Qh2 Rd2 with contrajuego ]

**29... Qc6 30.Bd4** and the white maintain a dangerous attack on the black King, who soon took them to the victory. **1-0**

## Opening: B90 - Sicilian Defense, Najdorf Variation

### Introduction:

The line **6.Be3 Ng4** is one of the variations fashionable in **the Sicilian Najdorf**, frequently played by the strongest players. Kasparov plays these variations agudisimas thanks to its excellent theoretical preparation. According to declarations of the same Kasparov, without the aid of a fort it programs could not study thorough so complex variations. In a previous encounter with the same Shirov, the champion preferred **12.. e6?** and he overcame after arduas complications. Here innovated with interesting **the 12... Qa5?**, obtaining good game. In this line the blacks place their laborers of the flank king in black square, trying to compensate the change of their bishop of fianchetto. Nevertheless, the confused thing of the variations causes that their study is very difficult and arduous. If it decides to enter this variation, ármese of patience!

**Shirov, A (2726) - Kasparov, G (2812) [ B90 ]  
Sarajevo it Bosna Sarajevo (2), 1999**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5  
9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Be2 h5 11.Bxg4 hxg4 12.O-O Nc6**

[ **Veamos the main 12 variations derived from... e6?** 13.Qd2 Nd7! 14.Bxd6 Ne5 15. Ncb5 axb5 16.Nxb5 f6 17.Rfd1 (compensation) Kf7 18.Qe2 Bd7 19.Bxe5 fxe5 **A**) 20. Qxg4! Qe7 (20... Kg8 21.Nd6±) 21.Nd6+ Kg6 22.Rd3+ =; **B**) 20.Nd6+ 20... Kg6 **B1**) 21.Qxg4? Rh4 22.Qf3 Qf6 23.Qxf6+ (23.Nxb7? Qxf3 24.gxf3 Rah8) 23... Bxf6 24.Nxb7 Bc6 25.Nd6+ = Ftacnik (25.Nc5 Be7 26.Nd3 Rxe4 with complex position) 25... Rah8? 26.h3 g4 27.Kh2? Be7 (27... gxh3 28.g3 R4h7 29.c4<sup>2</sup>) ; **B2**) 21.Rd3! 21... Qf6 22.Qxg4 Qf4 23.h3 Qxg4 24.hxg4 Bc6 25.c4 Rhd8 26.f3 Bf8 27.c5 b6 28.b4 bxc5 29.bxc5 Ra5 with good black advantage, Shirov, A-Kasparov, G/Wijk aan Zee 1999;

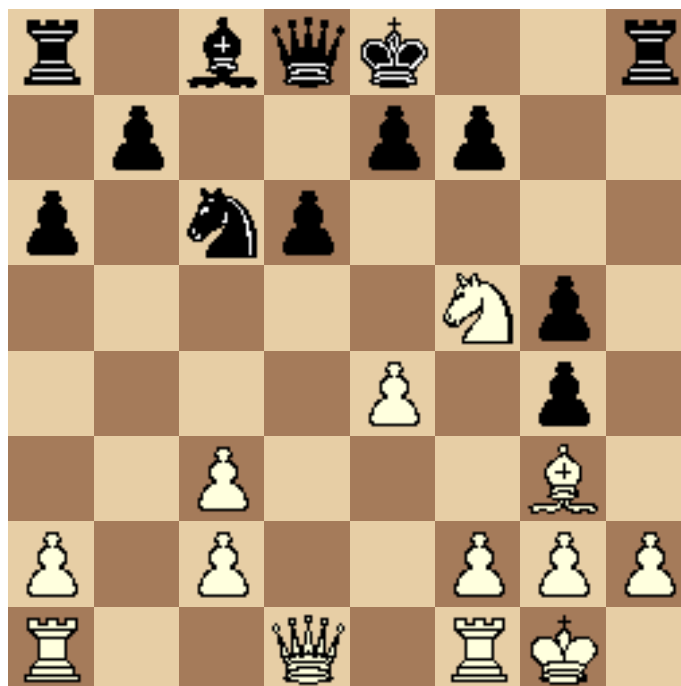
**Or also 12... unique** Axd4 13.Qxd4 f6 14.Nd5 Nc6 **A**) 15.Qb6? Qxb6 16.Nxb6 Rb8 17. c4 e5 (17... Nd4? 18.Rad1 Ke7 was suggested by Robert Alvarez) 19.Rd2 Be6+ =; **B**) 15.Qe3 15... Be6 16.Nb6 (16.Rad1 Kf7 17.c4 Qa5 18.a3 Qc5 19.Qd2 Rac8 20.b4 Qxc4 21.Nb6 Qxe4 22.Rfe1 Qf5 23.Nxc8 Rxc8 24.Qe3 Rc7 ½ - ½ Xie Jun-Lin Weiguo/ Beijing/1998/(36) ) 16... Rb8 17.c4 Kf7 18.c5 dxc5 19.Qxc5 Qg8 20.f4 gxf3 21.Rxf3 Rd8 0-1 Shirov, A-Salov, V/Wijk aan Zee/1998/(36) ]

### **13.Nf5 Bxc3**

The well-known alternative is [ **13... Bxf5 and after** 14.exf5 Bxc3 (bad is 14... Qa5? 15.Nd5 Be5 16.Bxe5 Nxe5 17.b4 Qd8 18.c4 1-0 Lanka, Z-Degraeve, J/Cappelle/1994/ (26) ) 15.bxc3 Ne5 16.c4?!... (more fort is 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Qxg4 f6 18.Qe4 Qc7 19. Rab1 0-0-0 20.g3 Rd6 21.Rb4 Rhd8 22.Kg2 Kb8 23.Rfb1 1-0 Apicella, M-Gallagher, J/

Clichy/1997/(38) ) 16... Qc7 17.Rb1 f6 18.c5 Qxc5 19.Rxb7 Kf7 20.Bxe5 Qxe5 21.h3 Qe4 22.Qb1 gxh3 23.Qb3+ d5 24.gxh3 g4 ½ - ½ Mainka, R-Gallagher, J/Eupen 1993/ (33) ]

## 14.bxc3



## 14... Qa5!?N

Interesting improvement. After coming off itself its bishop of black squares, the structure of laborers of the white flank lady has been deteriorated, but in return the blacks have debilitated their flank king. It has been left a typical position of double edge, where she has advantage that has tactical more visión. In addition, **the advance is controlled e4-e5 and also..Bxf5 is threatened** . The well-known was [ 14... Bxf5 15.exf5 Ne5 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Qxg4 f6 18.g3 Qc7 19.Rab1 b5 20.c4 Kf7 21. Rb4 Qc5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.a4 bxa4 24.Rxa4 Qxc2 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Qh5+ Kg7 27.Qg6+ Kf8 = Miranovic-Ruck, HUN-chT, 1995 ]

## 15.Qxg4

[ If 15.Rb1 could follow 15... Qxc3 16.Qxg4 f6 transposing the main variation. ]

## 15... f6 16.Rab1

The Blacks manage to stay after violenta[16.f4

**A)** 16... Bxf5! **A1)** 17.Qxf5! After the change of ladies, the blacks are with a superior structure of laborers. The white must recapture with laborer in f5. 17... Qxf5 18.exf5 g4

19.Rfd1 Rh5 20.Rd5 Rc8 21.Re1 (21.Rb1 Nd8) 21... Kd7 22.a4 Nd8 23.Re3 Nf7μ; **A2)** 17.exf5? **Aa)** 17... Qc5+ 18.Kh1 (18.Bf2 Qc4 19.Qf3 gxf4 20.Qd3 Qxd3 21.cxd3 Rh5 22.g4 fxf3 23.Bxf3 0-0-0<sup>3</sup>) 18... gxf4 19.Bxf4 0-0-0 20.Bd2 Rdg8 21.Qe4 Kb8; **A2b)** 17... Qxc3 18.fxf5 Qe3+ 19.Bf2 Qxf5 20.Qe4 0-0-0 21.c4? with idea of Bg3, Rb1 and c4-c5; **A2c)** 17... gxf4 18.Bxf4 **A2c1)** 18... Qc5+ 19.Kh1 Qxc3 20.Qg6+ Kd7 21.Qf7 (21.Rae1 Qc4) 21... Rag8; **A2c2)** 18... Qxc3 19.Qg6+ Kd7 **A2c21)** 20.Rae1 Qxc2 (20... Qc4 21.Re6 Nd8) 21.Qf7 Rag8 22.Rf2 Qa4 (22... Qc5 23.Rxe7+ Nxe7 24.Qe6+) 23.Rxe7+ Nxe7 24.Qe6+ Kd8 25.Bxd6 Qd1+; **A2c22)** 20.Qf7 20... Nd4 21.Rae1;

**B)** 16... gxf4 17.Qg6+ (17.Nxd6+ Kf8 18.Qg6 Qh5) **B1)** 17... Kd8 18.Nxd6 exd6 19.Qxf6+ Kc7 20.Qxh8 (20.Bxf4 Qc5+ 21.Kh1 Re8 22.Rad1 Ne5 23.Rd5 Qc6 24.Rfd1 Re6 25.Qg7+) 20... fxf3 21.Qg7+ Bd7 22.Qxf3± and the blacks does not seem to have complete compensation; **B2)** 17... Kd7 18.Bxf4+ =;

**C)** 16... Qxc3? 17.fxf5 Bxf5 **C1)** 18.Qxf5 Qe3+ (18... Nd4 19.Qf2) 19.Bf2 Qxf5 20.Qxf5 fxf5 with complicated position; **C2)** 18.exf5 18... Qe3+ 19.Bf2? (19.Kh1 Qxf5 20.Qxf5 fxf5 21.f6 e5) 19... Qxf5 20.Qe4? (20.Qxf5 fxf5) 20... 0-0-0 21.c4? Ne5 22.Rab1 Rd7 23.Bg3 Rc7 24.c5+ = ]

## 16... Qxc3

[ **the alternative 16... Qxa2!** it seems bad by 17.Bxd6! and now:

**A)** 17... exd6? 18.Nxd6+ Ke7 19.Nxc8+ Rhxc8 20.Rxb7+ Kf8 21.f4 Nd8 22.Rh7 Qe6 (22... Qg8 23.Qh5) 23.Qh5 Nf7 24.fxf5+ -;

**B)** 17... Qa5? 18.Qg3 (18.Bb4 Qe5) 18... Bxf5 (18... exd6? 19.Nxd6+ Kf8 20.Nxc8 Rxc8 21.Qd6+ Kg7 22.Rxb7+ Kg6 23.Qd7+ -) 19.Bc7 Qc5 20.exf5 b5 21.Qf3±;

**Or 16... Bxf5** (it still does not seem good for coming off itself the bishop): 17.exf5 0-0-0 18.c4 (18.Rb3 Qxa2 19.Rfb1) 18... Qxa2 19.Qe4? Qa4 20.f3 Qa5 21.Rfd1 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 Rd7 23.Rd5 Qa7 24.c5 with attack ]

## 17.Rfd1!

[ **17.f4!** now it allows

**A)** 17... Bxf5 18.exf5 Qd4+ 19.Bf2 (19.Kh1) 19... Qxf4 20.Qxf4 gxf4 21.Rxb7 Rh5;

**B)** 17... gxf4? this way, the square e5 will be a good post station for the N 18.Bxf4 (18.Qg6+ Kd8 19.Bxf4 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 Bxf5 21.exf5 b5 22.Qg7 Kc7) 18... Qc5+ 19.Kh1 Bxf5 20.exf5 b5 21.Qg6+ Kd7 22.Qf7 Qxf5 23.Bxd6 Qe6 24.Qxe6+ Kxe6 25.Bg3 Rh5+ =;

**17.Bxd6!** it does not serve now by

**A)** 17... Nd4 18.Bxe7 (18.Bg3 Qc4+ =) 18... Qc7 19.f4 (19.h3 Qxe7 20.Nxe7 Bxf4 21.Nd5 0-0-0 22.Nxf6 Be6μ) 19... Bxf5 20.exf5 Kxe7 21.fxf5 Qxh2+ 22.Kf2 Qh4+ 23.Qxh4 Rxh4+ =;

**B)** 17... exd6 18.Nxd6+ Kf8 19.Nxc8 Ne5 20.Qe6 Qxc8 21.Qxf6+ Nf7 22.f4 Qc5+ 23.Kh1 Rh6 24.Qb2 g4 25.e5 (25.Qxb7 g3 26.Qxa8+ Kg7 27.h3 Rxh3+ 28.gxh3 Qxc2-+) 25... b5 26.Qb4 Qxb4 27.Rxb4 Rc6 with clear black advantage ]



## 17... Ne5

[ **Very complicated era 17... Qxc2?** This audacious one moved takes to interesting complications, difficult to evaluate with exactitude. Surely the intuition of Kasparov, or the difficulty to calculate the variations accurately, took to reject it. An eminently practical decision, mainly considering that with 17..Ne5 its position is satisfactory. Let us see for example:

**A) 18.Bxd6!** Rh4! 19.Qf3 Bxf5 20.Qxf5 (20.exf5 exd6 21.Re1+ Ne5 22.Qxb7 Rc8 23.Qd5 Qc4 24.Qxd6 Qc6μ) 20... Qxe4! (20... exd6 21.Qg6+) 21.Qxe4 Rxe4 with clear black advantage;

**B) 18.Qf3?** and now:

**B1)** 18... Ne5? 19.Bxe5 dxe5 (19... fxe5 20.Ng7++ -) 20.Rbc1!+ -;

**B2)** 18... d5 19.Rbc1 dxe4 20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.Qa3 Qe2 22.Re1 Qh5 23.Nxc8 Rxc8 24.Qb3 b5 25.Qe6 Qe8 26.Rc5±;

**B3)** 18... Qxa2 **Bá)** Also deserves consideration 19.Nxd6+? exd6 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.Qc3 (21.Bxd6 Qf7; 21.Qxd6 Qf7) 21... Qf7 22.Rxd6 Ra7 23.Rf6 Qg7; **B3b)** 19.Bxd6 19... Qf7! (19... exd6? 20.Nxd6+) **B3b1)** 20.Bc7 Qh7 (20... Bxf5 21.exf5 Qc4 22.Rxb7 Nd4 23.Qa3 Nxf5 24.Bd8 with complex position) 21.h3 (21.Ne3? e5 22.Qxf6 Qxh2+ 23.Kf1 Qh1+ 24.Ke2 Qh5+ 25.f3 g4 26.Bxe5 gxf3+ 27.gxf3 Rf8 28.Nd5 Qxe5 29.Qxe5+ Nxe5 30.Nc7+ Ke7 31.Nxa8 Nxf3 32.Nb6 Bg4) 21... a5 (21... 0-0 22.Qb3+ Kh8 23.Ng3) 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.Rxd4; **B3b2)** 20.Bxe7 20... Bxf5 21.Rxb7 **B3b21)** 21... Qh5 22.Qxh5+ (22.Bxf6 Qxh2+ 23.Kf1 Be6 24.e5 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Qh5 26.Ke3 Qxf3+ 27.gxf3 Rh6 28.Rd6 Nd8 29.Re7+ Kf8 30.Rxd8+ Rxd8 31.Rxe6 Ra8 with complicated position) 22... Rxh5 23.Bxf6 Rh7 24.Rb6 Bd7 25.Bxg5+ =; **B3b22)** 21... Bc8? 22.Rc7 Nxe7 23.e5 ]

## 18.Bxe5

[ In the later analysis, Shirov indicated that 18.Qe2 did not please by 18... Bxf5 ( 18... b5 19.Ne3 Be6 20.Nd5 Bxd5<sup>3</sup>) 19.exf5 to him b5 and in case of 20.a4 bxa4 21.Qe4 Qc6! and the Blacks have surpassed the danger. ]

## 18... Qxe5

[ 18... dxe5 allows to the target a check perpétuo after 19.Rb3 (19.Qe2? b5 20.Rb3 Qc7 21.Qd3 Bxf5 22.exf5 e4 23.Qxe4 Qxh2+ 24.Kf1 Rc8÷) 19... Qxc2 20.Rh3 Rxh3 21.gxh3 Bxf5 22.exf5 and Qh5, etc ]

## 19.g3

It seems better than 19.h3, because the textual one, ademas to interrupt the action of the Q on h2, also avoids..Rh4.

## 19... b5 20.c4!

According to expressed by Kasparov after the game, the this play it is very good, and it avoids that the white enter On guard uncomfortable. Shirov sacrifices a laborer to avoid that the black bishop locates in the diagonal b7-h1. [ 20.Qf3 **A**) 20... Be6 21.a4 = (21. Ng7+ Kf7 22.Nxe6 Qxe6<sup>3</sup>) ; **B**) 20... Bb7 21.Rd4 with idea fortify a position, to consolidate a position by means of Qd3, Ne3-d5, seems difficult to make specific. 21... Kf7 22.Qd3? **B1**) 22... Rxh2! 23.Nxd6+! (23.Kxh2 Rh8+ 24.Kg1 Qxf5-+) 23... exd6 24. Kxh2 f5 (24... Rh8+ 25.Kg2 Qf5 26.Rd1 Qh3+ 27.Kf3 f5 28.Ke3 Bxe4 29.Qb3++ -) 25. Re1 Bxe4 26.Rdxe4 fxe4 27.Rxe4 Rh8+ 28.Kg2; **B2**) 22... g4! 23.a4 Bc6 and by the weakness the white squares of the flank king, the position of the blacks pleases more. ]

**20... bxc4 21.Qf3 c3** [ 21... Be6 22.Rb7 (22.Ng7+ Kf7 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Rb7 $\mu$ ) 22... Bxf5 (22... Rh7 23.Nxd6+? Kf8 24.Nf5 c3) 23.exf5 Rc8 24.Ra7 a5? 25.a4 Kf7 26.Rc1 c3 27.Rb7 Rc5 28.Rc2 Qxf5 29.Qxf5 Rxf5 30.Rxc3 g4 31.Rc4 Rg5 32.Re4 Re8 33.Ra7 d5 34.Re1 Re5 35.Rxe5 fxe5 36.Rxa5÷ ] **22.Rbc1 Bb7 23.Qxc3** [ 23.Rd4? she is worthy of mention: 23... Rc8 24.Rxc3 Rxc3 25.Qxc3 **A**) 25... g4 26.Qb3! (26.Qc7 Bxe4 27.Qc8 + Kf7 28.Qxh8 Qxf5÷) **A1**) 26... Bxe4 27.Nxd6+ exd6 28.Qa4+ Kd8 (28... Kf7) 29. Rxe4 Qh5 30.h4 gxh3; **A2**) 26... Bc8 27.Rb4 Qa1+ 28.Kg2 Qe1 29.Ne3! $\pm$  (29.Qc4 Rxh2 + 30.Kxh2 Qxf2+ =) ; **B**) 25... Bxe4 26.Qc8+ Kf7 27.Qxh8 Qxf5 (27... Bxf5 28.Qh5+ Kg7 29.Qd1 Bc2 30.Qd2) 28.Qh5+ Kg7 (28... Ke6 29.Qe2 d5) 29.Qe2 d5 30.Ra4 and the blacks has sufficient compensation. ]

**23... Bxe4 24.Nxd6+? exd6 25.Re1 Qxc3**

[ 25... f5 26.f3 Qxc3 27.Rxc3 d5 28.fxe4 fxe4 29.Rc5 Rd8 30.Rd1 = ]

**26.Rxc3 d5 27.f3 Kf7 28.fxe4 Rhe8 29.Rc7+ Kg6 30.Rf1 dxe4**

[ 30... Rxe4 31.Rc6 Rf8 32.Rxa6 = ]

**31.Rc6 Rf8 32.Re6 Rae8 33.Rxf6+? Rxf6 34.Rxe8 Kf5 35.Kf2 Rh6 36.Rf8+ Ke5 37.Re8+ Kf5 38.Rf8+ Ke5 39.Re8+**

[ 39.Re8+ Kd4 40.Rd8+ Kc3 41.Ke3 Rxh2 42.Rc8+ Kb2 43.Rg8 Rh5 44.g4 = ] **1/2-1/2**

## Opening: **B90 - Sicilian Defense, Najdorf variation with 6.Be3**

### **Introduction:**

The line is very fashionable nowadays in the Najdorf variation **6.Be3 Ng4**, very popularized after the beating that Shirov gave him to Judit Polgar in the Prague 1999.

It is a line where the white accept to move their bishop several times, in exchange for debilitating the white squares in the flank black king. Topalov accepts the challenges generally, and it always tries to make improvements. In this case tries **12...Qa5**, with the idea to exert greater pressure on c3. As well, the Ponomariov young person talks back with **13.Qf3!** and soon he guesses right with the plan and it is with better perspective.

**Ponomariov, R - Topalov, V [ B90 ]**

**FIDE Wch The Fertile valleys (2.1), 03.08.1999**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Bc4**

With this Anand play it surprised Topalov in Linares 1998.

**10... Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.h4**



[ 12.Qf3 Rf8 13.Bb3 Ne5 14.Qe3 Rb8 15,0-0 Qb6 16.Qe2 Rh8 17.Kh1 h5 18.f4 with uncertain game, Anand - Topalov, Car Mount it 1998 ]

### 12... Qa5!?!N

The well-known was [ 12... Qb6 13.Bb3 Bd7 14.hxg5 0-0-0 15.Qd2 hxg5 16.Rxh8 Rxh8 17,0-0-0 Ne5 18.f3 Qa5 19.Kb1 Bf6 20.Qe3 Kb7 21.Bf2 Rb8 with complicated game, Anand - Topalov, Linares 1998 ]

### 13.Qf3! Be6!

Our recommendation is 13... Rf8.

### 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.hxg5!

[ If 15.Qxg4 Bxc3+ 16.bxc3 Qxc3+ 17.Ke2 Qc4+ and the blacks makes tables. Perhaps Topalov was in agreement with this result. ]

### 15... hxg5 16.Rxh8+ Bxh8 17.Kf1!

Good strategy. The white K goes more surely towards the place, far from the action of the Bh8 and the Qa5.

**17... Ne5 18.Qe2 Kd7 19.Nd1 Rb8 20.c3 Qa4 21.Bxe5 Bxe5 22.g3 Bf6 23. Kg2 a5 24.f3 c5 25.Ne3 Kc7 26.Qd2 Qb5 27.b3 a4 28.Rb1 axb3 29.Rxb3 Qa4 30.Rxb8 Kxb8 31.Ng4 Kc7 32.e5 Bxe5 33.Nxe5 dxe5 34.Qe2 Kd6 35.c4**

e4 36.Qxe4 Qxa2+ 37.Kh3 Qb2 38.Kg4 Qf2 39.f4 Kd7 40.fxg5 Qb2 41.g6  
Qf6 42.Qb7+ Kd6 43.Qb8+ Kd7 44.Kh5 e5 45.Qb7+ Kd8 46.Qd5+ Ke8 47.  
Qg8+ Kd7 48.Qf7 Qh8+ 49.Kg4 Qh1 50.g7 Qe4+ 51.Kg5 Qe3+ 52.Kh4 Qe4+  
53.g4 1-0

**White: GM Garry Kasparov**

**Black: GM Judit Polgar**

**Najdorf Sicilian Defense**

**Wijk aan Zee, Corus Tournament (13) 2000**

**In the variation 6.Be3 Ng4 that is at the moment fashionable, Judit Polgar as opposed to Kasparov introduced an interesting newness: 10... Nf6. The idea is to leave the N located in a defensive position, and pressing the white center and queen side by means of Qb6.** The Blacks left windy the opening, and the experience of Judit deserves to repeat itself, although soon it lost the game by an excess of optimism. The white took advantage of locating their Bf1 in c4 aggressively, and prevented the natural development of the black Bc8 by means of the pawns of h3 and e4. The blacks captured the pawn 'b' in the style of the Gotemburgo, and the white could not justify the sacrifice. Soon the errors happened, but the opening newness remains out of danger.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.h3**



During the first game of the match Shirov - Polgar held in Prague last summer, Garry and I jointly offered commentary in the press center. Garry followed the games in that match rather keenly as the players debated this line of the Najdorf. He showed himself very conversant with this variation and lamented a poor opening decision by Judith, "A pity! They haven't even reached the critical position yet." -- Kasparov. Thus it was no surprise to me that Kasparov aimed precisely for the opening in which Shirov did so well.

## 10...Nf6?

A novelty of dubious merit. While Judith may have been - understandably so - trying to avoid Kasparov's preparation, the text makes a woeful impression. What is the point of advancing the g-pawn if not to secure the e5-square? Previous games have all continued with 10...Ne5, which is the right decision. 10..Ne5 has gambled frequently. The same Judit as opposed to Shirov lost a pretty game in match that both disputed the previous year. [ 10... Ne5

**A)** 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5 Nbc6 13.Nd5 0-0 14.Be2 e6 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Ne3 d5 17,0-0 Qb6 18.Ng4! Rf5 19.c3 Qxb2 20.Rb1 Qxc3 21.Rxb7 Rf7 22.Qb1 Rxb7 23.Qxb7 Re8 24.Qxa6 Nxc4 25.Bxc4 Nd4 26.Rb1 Qc2? 27.Rb7 Amenaza Rxc7 followed of Qa7 and 27 Qxd4.... Qg6 Now that the blacks are semi paralyzed by the pressure of the white pieces, begins to run the laborer to free. 28.a4! h5 29.Bd1 h4 30.Bd6 e5 31.Qa7 Nf5 ( If 31... Kh8 32. Qc5 Qe4 33.Qc7 Qe1+ 34.Kh2 Rg8 35.Bg4 with the unstoppable threat of Qf7-h5 ) 32. Bc5 e4 ( Within the bad thing of the position, a little better era 32... Bf8 33.Bb3 Qc6 34. Qb6 Qxb6 35.Bxb6 Ne7 36.Be3 Bh6 37.Bc5 the black position falls. ) 33.Rb6+ - Re6 34. Bb3 Rxb6 35.Bxd5+ Kh7 36.Qxb6 Qh5 37.Qb1 Kh6 38.Bxe4 1-0 Shirov, A-Polgar, J/ Prague CZE 1999;

**B)** 11.f3 11... Nbc6 12.Bf2 e6 13.Qd2 Ng6 14,0-0-0 Be5 15.Kb1 Bd7÷ Nunn, J-Bosch, J/ Germany 1999/EXT 2000 ]

## 11.Bc4

As Polgar did not play..Ne5, the white take advantage of locating their bishop of aggressive way. Borrowing a page from the Yugoslav Dragon variation. I wasn't too impressed by the text being more attracted to the moves: 11.Qd2 Nc6 (11...O-O 12.O-O-O) 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5 and 11.Qf3 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5, which put severe pressure on Black's position.

## 11...Qb6

Not a happy decision as Black is forced to muddy the waters with tactical play. It seems that strategical moves: 11...Nc6? 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5; 11...Nbd7?? 12.Nf5 and 11...O-O 12.O-O, all leave White in command.

After 11... Nxe4

**A)** 12.Nxe4? d5 13.Nb5 axb5 (13... dxc4? 14.Nc7+) 14.Bxd5 Bxb2 15.Rb1 (15,0-0 Bxa1 16.Qxa1 0-0) 15... Qa5+ 16.Kf1 complex Bg7 17.h4 g4;

**B)** 12.Bxf7+ 12... Kxf7 13.Nxe4 Qb6 the white has tables to their disposition. The following analyses are of Robert Alvarez. 14.Qh5+ (14.Qf3+ Kg8 15.Nxd6 exd6 16.Qd5 + Kh7 17.Qe4+ Kg8 18.Qe8+ Kh7 19.Qe4+ =) 14... Kg8 (14... Kf8 15.Qf3+ Kg8 16. Nxd6 Qa5+ 17.b4 Qxb4+ 18.c3 Qb2 19,0-0 exd6 20.Qd5+ Kh7 21.Rab1 Qa3 22.Qe4+ Kg8 23.Rxb7)

**B1)** 15.Qe8+ Kh7 16.Nxc5+ hxc5 17.Qh5+ Bh6 18.Qf7+ Bg7 19.h4 g4 20.Qh5+ Kg8 =;

**B2)** 15.Nxd6 Qxd4? (15... Qb4+ 16.c3 Qxb2 17,0-0 exd6 18.Rab1 Qxa2 19.Qe8+ Kh7 20.Qe4+ Kg8 21.Rxb7) 16.Nxc8 Nc6;

**B3)** 15.c3? 15... d5 16.Bc7 (16.Nxg5 hxg5 17.Qxg5 Nc6 ') 16... Qxc7 17.Qe8+ Kh7 18. Nxg5+ hxg5 19.Qh5+ =

## 12.O-O!?

True to his nature, Kasparov chooses the sharpest decision. Due to Black's weakened Kingside, I felt that 12.Nb3 Nc6 13.O-O O-O 14.Kh1 Ne5 15.Be2, with f2-f4 to appear, would give White a clear advantage. Kasparov offers a pawn sacrifice.

## 12...O-O

Judith is a player who enjoys the initiative herself and doesn't like handing it to her opponents. Here she thought better of 12...Nxe4 13.Qh5!?, as leading to a promising attack for White. Also while: 12...Qxb2 13.Nde2, might transpose into the game, but, 12...Qxb2 13.Qd3!, would lead to trouble for Black. Very dangerous for black the era 12... Nxe4 13.Bxf7+ (13.Nxe4 Qxd4 14.Qe2 0-0 15.c3 Qb6 with contrajuego) 13... Kxf7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Nd5

**A)** 15... Qd8 16.Qg6 Nxg3 17.fxg3 (17.Rfe1 e5) 17... Rh7 18.Rf7 Kh8 19.Kh1!±; **B)** 15... Nxg3 16.Nxe7+ Kf8 17.fxg3+ Kxe7 18.Qf7+ Kd8 19.Qxg7 complex Re8 20.Rad1

## 13.Nde2



It gives to the laborer "b2" in the style of the Gotemburgo variant, but the consequences are not clear. [ Juiceable was 13.Nb3? although Kasparov does not wish to retire its Bc4 of the diagonal a2-g8 ]

## 13...Qxb2!



risky since it does not see anything concrete. In addition to the obvious attack that will happen on the Qb2, the white have by compensation the powerful Bc4, and the domination of the squares of development of the Bc8, that cannot go to the natural squares e6, f5 or g4 (against-structure h3, e4) [ Prudent and good era 13... Nc6 ]

I very much admired this decision on two counts: After the capture, Black is well behind in development and is sure to be subjected to a blistering attack but the capture is made anyway. Secondly, I liked the capture for the simple reason that Judith trusted her calculations and didn't see a definite win. If Garry was bluffing, she would challenge his bluff, if not, she would die with a full stomach.

### **14.Bb3**

Not exactly an inspiring follow-up to the sacrifice. In the pressroom we had been expecting events based upon: 14.Rb1 Qa3 15.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5, hoping that f2-f4 would offer compensation. Possible era also 14.Rb1 Qa3 15.Rb3 complex Qa5

### **14...Qa3**

Getting away from the typical "Poisoned Pawn" threat of 15.a3 and 16.Ra2 trapping Black's Queen. Black also avoided: 14...Nh5? 15.Bh2 Bxc3? 16.Rb1 Qa3 17.Nxc3, which greatly favors White. Polgar plays to win, but she lets save a great opportunity to play a favorable pre-end. [ the sequence that is born of 14... Nxe4? 15.Nxe4 Qxa1 16.Qxa1 Bxa1 17.Rxa1 Kg7 takes to a end without queens in the board, in which the blacks can be satisfied. The resulting position, with rook and 2 pawns by knight and bishop, is favorable to the black, that can prepare a plan on the base of the advance of the mass of pawns. ]

### **15.f4 Nc6!**

Better era 15... Nh5 with pressure on g3 and c3.

### **16.Kh1 Be6!**



Too optimistic. This is a tactically important position and is necessary an exhaustive analysis. [ most exact for the blacks seems to be 16... Nh5? 17.Bh2 (17.Qd3 gxf4 18. Nxf4 Ne5 19.Qe3 Qc5 with clear black advantage)  
 17... gxf4 18.Bxf4 Nxf4 19.Rxf4 Bd7 with idea of Qc5-g5, happening its Q to the defense successful. ]

### 17.Qd3!?

As I had been doing throughout the tournament, I was broadcasting live from Wijk aan Zee. For the last round I had chosen this particular game to lecture upon and had earned the admiration of my audience for citing some outstanding lines of play which involved 17.e5 dxe5 18.fxg5 hxg5 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Qd2, when Black is saddled with tripled pawns in the center and a hanging g5-pawn. Throughout a number of these variations, I constantly harped upon the theme of, "Developing an attack with tempo." This obviously meant, Qd1-d2 pressuring the g5-pawn. Thus the text move rather deflated the spirit of my lecture. Probably the simple 17.Qd2, was in fact best.

**17...Rac8 18.fxg5 hxg5 19.Nd5**



At first impression, White's attack seems overwhelming...

### 19...Rfe8!

A very cool defensive move. Only bad things will happen after: 19...Bxd5 20.cxd5 Nb4 21.Qf5 when White's Queen is far to menacing. The text on the other hand leaves it up to White to prove the soundness of his sacrifice. Given the chance to play ...Nc6-e5, Black's pieces might spring to life. The blacks had a favorable simplification Again: 19... Nxd5 20.exd5 Nb4 21.Qe4 Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Bxa1 24.Rxa1 Qe3=+

### 20.Rad1 (0:38/0:37)

The white have had time to locate their heavy pieces dominating important central squares, in the Qa3 has as much not been able to return to the game. [ Only to the equality leads 20.Nxf6+ Bxf6 (20... exf6 21.Bxe6 Qxd3 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.cxd3) 21. Bxe6 Qxd3 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.cxd3 = ]

### 20...Nb4!

A fine move, which does a number of splendid things: it gets rid of the powerful d5-Knight; opens up the c-file for the c8-Rook and so on. It is much stronger than: 20... Ne5?! 21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.Ng3 (22.Nxf6+ exf6 23.Ng3!?) Bxd5 23.exd5, with fine play on the light squares. Now already is late for simplifying, since if 20... Bxd5 21.exd5 Nb4 22. Qf5 a5 23.Nd4 the white have much initiative, in as much the Qa3 she remains remote of the events. (23.Rf3 a4 24.Bc4 complex Qb2 25.Bb5

### 21.Qf3



### 21...Nbx5?

The players were already heading towards the perils of time trouble so my audience was unable to fully enjoy the options extended to Judith in this position. While it struck me that Black might bail out with some kind of sacrifices based on 21...Rxc2(?) 22.Nxb4 Rxe2 and so on, I really didn't see the necessity for jumping ship. Far more intriguing was: 21...g4!? 22.Nxf6+ (22.hxg4? Nbx5 23.exd5 Bxg4 is very favorable for Black.) 22...exf6 23.hxg4 Nxc2 24.Bxd6 Qa5, with a rather impressive mutual mauling taking place. The play that ruins the black position definitively. It wastes a valuable time when having to retire the B to d7, in as much the white have the right time to regroup his B To c2. [ the best thing seemed 21... Bxd5? 22.exd5 Nxc2 (22... a5 23.Nd4 Nxa2 24.Ra1 Qb4 25.Nf5 Rc3 26.Qe2 Rxb3 27.cxb3 Nc3) 23.Rd2 Nb4 24.Qf5 Nbx5 25.Bxd5 e6 and the blacks seems to restrain the threats. ]

### 22.exd5 Bd7

Now, 22...g4 23.Qf4, is far less promising. At this point, the question of compensation started to arise. What exactly has White got for his sacrificed b-pawn? Well Black's King is still quite vulnerable, but hadn't that always been the case? If 22... g4 23.Qd3 Bd7 and also the white prepare for the maneuver c3-Bc2.

### 23.c3!

The exclamation point is for the fact that 23.c3, is the best move in the position and not an easy move to see. The point is that the b3-Bishop really doesn't do a damned thing and worse still, it is potentially trapped by Black's a-pawn. The text stops the connection between Queens (23.c4? a5, sets up ...a5-a4 and a Queen swap.) and prepares to retreat the b3-Bishop. The white begin to create serious threats: the plan is Bc2-Qd3, Rxf6 and Qh7+.

## 23...a5!

Very slow. [ alternative era 23... g4 24.Qd3 Qc5 (24... Bb5 25.c4; 24... gxh3 25.gxh3 and soon the white play Rg1 ) 25.Bf2 Qc7 26.Rc1 to avoid Bb5, with fort attacks after Bd4. ]

## 24.Qd3



## 24...a4?

It forces the Bb3 to go to the square where it wants to go! Judith starts to lose the thread of the position. There was absolutely no reason for forcing the b3-Bishop to an aggressive diagonal. I thought that 24...Qc5 was begging to be played. Black is setting up nicely for ...Bd7-b5 or ...a5-a4 and ...Qc5-c4 in order to swap Queens. Meanwhile pressure is put on the c3-pawn, stopping the e2-Knight from moving. After, 24...Qc5, White is in trouble: 25.a4 b5, looks very good for Black.

## 25.Bc2 Qc5

Another imprecisión, although of course the position is difficult to calculate on the board. [ best chance resided in the delivery of Q: 25... Qxa2 26.Rxf6 Bxf6 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Nf4! Qxc2! (28... gxf4 29.Bxf4 e5 30.Bg6 Ke7 31.Qxf7+ Kd8 32.Qxf6+ Kc7 33.Bxe8 Rxe8; 28... Bg7? 29.Nh5) 29.Qxc2 gxf4 (29... Rxc3 30.Qh7 Rxg3 31.Nh5+ -) 30.Bxf4 Kg7 31.Rd3 Rh8 32.Rg3+ Kf8 ]

## 26.Rxf6!



Just so, White is now able to sacrifice an exchange and generate a promising attack.

### 26...exf6

[ 26... Bxf6 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Nf4! An unexpected but very effective sacrifice. 28... Bg7 (28... gxf4 29.Bxf4 e6 30.Bg6 Bg7 31.Bxf7 Qxc3 32.Qg8+ Ke7 33.Bxe8 Rxe8 34.Bg5+ Bf6 35.Qg7+ Kd8 36.Bxf6+ Qxf6 37.Qxf6++ -) 29.Ne6+! (29.Ng6+ fxg6 30.Rf1+ Bf5 31.Bxf5 gxf5 32.Rxf5+ Bf6 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qh7+; 29.Nh5 Qxc3) 29... Bxe6 30.dxe6 Qc4 (30... f5 31.Qg6 Kg8 32.Bxf5) 31.exf7 Qxf7 32.Bg6 Qf6 33.Kg1! Rxc3 34.Rf1 Qxf1 + 35.Kxf1+ - ]

### 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Nd4

Threatening Bf5, followed of the exchange of B and soon Nf5.

### 28...Re5!

A fine counter-offer. The critical f5-square is guarded and the g3-d6-diagonal blocked. The position is still quite unclear. A feature of the position is the tactical line: 28...Re3? 29.Bxa4 Bxa4 30.Nf5!, getting after Black's King. [ 28... Qxd5 29.Nf3 Qe6 30.Bxd6+; 28... Red8 29.Bxa4 (29.Bf5? Qxd5 30.Ne6+ Qxe6 31.Bxe6 fxe6 32.Bxd6+ Kf7 33.Qh5+ Kg8 34.Be7 Be8 35.Rxd8 Rxd8 36.Qe2) 29... Qxd5 (29... Bxa4? 30.Nf5) 30.Ne2 Bf5 31.Qxg7+ Kxg7 32.Rxd5 Be6 33.Rd2± ]

### 29.Bxe5 fxe5??

A horrendous blunder that pitches the game. After the forced: 29...dxe5 30.Nf5 Bxf5 31.Qxf5 Rd8, the game might be evaluated as better for White, but with good drawing chances for Black. [29... dxe5 30.Nf5 (30.Ne6+? fxe6) 30... Bxf5 31.Qxf5 a3 (31...

Qxc3 32.Bxa4 Rd8 33.d6±) 32.Qd7 Qc7 33.Qxc7 Rxc7 34.d6 Rc8 35.d7 Rd8 36.Bf5 Ke7 (36... g4 37.Bxg4 Bh6 38.Rb1) 37.Rb1 (37.g4) 37... Rb8 38.Rb3 Bf8 39.Rxa3±]



### 30.Ne6+!

A fine blow, which allows White to realize the full activity of his pieces. The entire complex of light squares is now critically weekend.

### 30...Bxe6

A sad trade but: 30...fxe6? 31.Rf1++ - would have been even worse.

### 31.dxe6 Rc7 (0:15/0:14) 32.Bxa4!

Winning pawns is always a very good thing. Even better from White's prospective is that by extracting the a-pawn; the b3-square is made available from where the White Bishop would lord over the position. Polgar feared 32.Bg6 f6 33.Bf7 Rxf7 34.exf7 Kxf7 35.Qe4 but after 35... b5 the end is favorable for the white but not so forceful.

### 32...d5

The e6-pawn is still immune from capture: 32...fxe6? 33.Qg6 Rf7 34.Qxe6, threatening Qe6-e8 Checkmate amongst other things. After the text, Black is just about ready to capture the invading pawn. [32... Qf2 33.Qd3±]

### 33.Qf5!

Garry finds a rather convincing move. My choice of 33.Bd7, intending Rd1-f1 had the drawback of allowing a potential exchange sacrifice. The text reasserts the primacy of

the light squares. Amongst other things, White threatens 34.Qxg5, winning a pawn while threatening checkmate.

**33...Qc4**

[ 33... Qd6 34.Bd7 f6 35.Qg6 Qe7 36.Rxd5+ - ]

**34.Bd7**

[ 34.Bb3 Qf4 ]

**34...Qf4**



**35.Qb1!**

A fine retreat that effectively ends the game. The threats of Rd1-f1 and Qb1-b6 are nearly impossible to stave off.

**35...fxe6?**

The error that loses the game. [ Better is 35... Qc4! 36.Rf1 (36.Qb6 Qc5) 36... f6 37. Rd1 (37.Kh2 e4 38.Qd1 Ke7; 37.Qf5 Ke7 38.Kh2 Qe4) 37... e4 38.Qb6 (38.Bb5 Qxc3 39.Rxd5 Qc1+ 40.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 41.Kh2 Rc7) 38... Ke7 39.Qa7 (39.Rxd5 Qxd5 40.Qxc7 Qd1+ 41.Kh2 Qd6+ 42.Qxd6+ Kxd6 43.g4 Bf8 44.Kg3 complex Ke5) 39... g4! and still the blacks have resources. (39... f5? 40.Qb8 Qxc3 41.Qe8+ Kd6 42.e7 Rxd7 43.Rxd5+ + -) ; The British Chess Magazine indicates 35 more... Qe4 like "la resistente", but it immediately loses by 36.Qb6+ - ]

**36.Bxe6!**



This is far more convincing than: 36.Rf1? Rxd7 37.Rxf4+ gxf4, which is quite unclear.

**36...Ke7 37.Bxd5 + -**

The position does not offer hopes to the black: laborer of less and to make matters worse, the On guard very uncertain king.

**37...Rd7 38.c4!**

Kasparov again eschews the win of Black's Queen by: 38.Rf1 Qxf1+ 39.Qxf1 Rxd5, which should be winning. I like Kasparov's decision.

**38...Qe3 39.Qh7 Kd8 40.Rb1 Qf4**

Having made the time control, the players could now survey the damage. Judith was rather dismayed by what had been a perfectly fine position spoiled by time trouble.



While we all felt that White was winning, what was the most precise line? We couldn't discount a line based on ...e5-e4 with counterplay on the dark-squares. Kasparov finds the way.

**41.Be6!!**

The perfect decision. Black's Rook is overloaded. It must guard both the seventh rank and the d-file. By giving the Rook the boot, White's pieces get a chance to use the newly opened d-file avenue.

**41...Re7 42.Bg4 Rf7**

There is no time for: 42...e4 43.Qg8+ Bf8 44.Qd5+ Ke8 46.Bh5+, winning. [ 42... Qxc4 43.Qg6+ - ]

### **43.Qd3+ Qd4 44.Qg6 1-0**

The inroad is completed after: 44...Qf4 45.Qd6+ Ke8 46.Qb8+, with checkmate to follow. [ 44.Qg6 Qxc4 (44... Rd7 45.Qxg5+ Kc7 46.Qf5+ -) 45.Qd6+ Ke8 46.Qb8+ Ke7 47.Rxb7+ Kf6 48.Qd6+ Qe6 49.Qxe6 # ]

The Corus Company was formed by the merging of British Steel and Koninklijke Hoogovens to create one of the largest metals company in Europe. Corus will be the sponsor of the Hoogovens Chess Tournament from 2000 onwards. The chess tournament, which is known all over the world, will henceforth be known as the "Corus Chess Tournament".

# Ivanchuk,V (2714) - Kasparov,G (2812) [B90] Linares (2), 22.02.1999

## Looking for trouble...

*by GM Alex Khalifman*

Now we know it for sure: Kasparov unpacked his SuperComputer. Another FRITZ-Dokhoian opening brilliancy gives him the lead in Linares.

The whole opening line ( 6.Be3 Ng4 in Najdorf ) became rather popular during the last years. 10.Qd2, however, is in my opinion inferior to 10.Be2 when White is aiming for more concrete play. Kasparov won against Shirov in Hoogovens 99 with 10...h5 11.Bxg4 hxg4 12.0-0 e6!? but it's another story. Also 12.a4 ( instead of 12.f3 ) deserved attention but Vassily was aiming for position from the game Anand - Kasparov ( Linares 1998 ). So naive! One year before Kasparov played passive move 14...Bd7 and got into worse position. Afterwards FRITZ & Dokhoian device was switched on and brand-new concept with 14...b4 was worked out. Looks so natural, doesn't it? The problem is that WC Council Champion can't even claim "the best novelty" as the move **14...b4!** was already played in October 1998 by **11 years old** Georgian girl **Nana Dzagnidze** during U12 girls' World Championship in Spain. Somehow her opponent ( also 11 years old girl, certainly) reacted better than superGM Vassily Ivanchuk. She retreated her knight to e2 so the real novelty in Ivanchuk-Kasparov game was played by Ivanchuk, and hardly successful. After 15.Nd1 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 d5! Black is doing really fine. 17.Ba7 would be lesser evil from Ivanchuk's point of view but caught by surprise he went astray and played the second part of the game obviously depressed. Somehow I've got a strong feeling that Kasparov started playing chess around move 23 and played the final phase quite well. Exchange sac is quite nice although obvious. It's a pity that he missed direct win with **28...Nxd1!** and preferred to transpose the game into technically won ending. Ivanchuk was so shocked that he resigned in position where he could hang on for a while.

Poor Vassily! I think he prepared some improvement to abovementioned Anand-Kasparov game. We will never know exactly which one. But anyway this severe punishment was well-deserved. So long when people will play Kasparov this way (I mean sharp theoretical lines even with some prepared novelties) he will win all the tournaments. I wrote about this in tournament preview. Unfortunately our website is not very popular yet. **One can't win the race on "Volkswagen" vs. Formula car even being born-driver** . Imagine: how many men and computers are working for Ivanchuk on his opening lines just every day and every night? And for Kasparov? So, Vassily, taste this bitter difference. Why wasn't he so aggressive the day before against

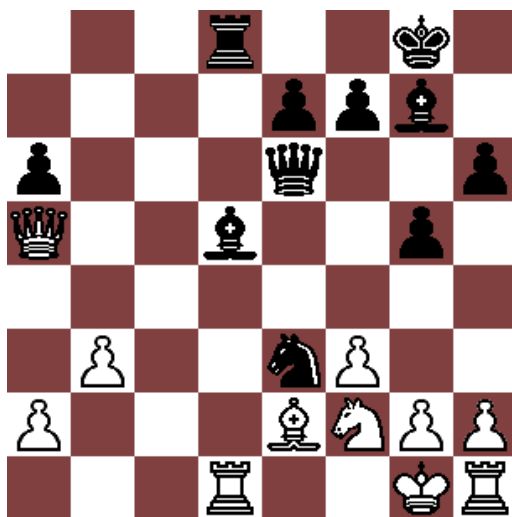
Anand? Why didn't he play somewhat supersolid and boring (1.e4 c5 2.d3 or somewhat even more obscure) against Gazza? This man is champion - just let him show how good is he. No way. Playing Kasparov everybody concentrates all the aggression, chooses the sharpest opening line and... commits suicide this way.

I can understand that **all what Kasparov has done to destroy the chess world can cause such a reaction** but please, a bit more quiet.

Really I want to see Morozevich playing Kasparov. I bet he wouldn't challenge the champion in opening preparation. I hope he would choose the right way. **Ivanchuk-Kasparov**



after 14.Nd4 (14...b4!)



after 28.Kg1 (**28...Nxd1!**)

Kasparov played 28...Rc8 and won anyway

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5  
9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Qd2** [10.Be2 h5 11.Bxg4 hxg4]

**10...Nc6 11.Nb3 Nge5 12.f3 b5 13.Bf2 Rb8 14.Nd4** [14.Nd5; 14.O-O-O?! Nc4 15.  
Bxc4 bxc4 16.Nd4 Qb6 17.Na4 Qb7 18.Qc3 Bd7μ]



**14...b4!** [14...Bd7 15.Be2 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.Rb1<sup>2</sup> Anand,V-Kasparov,G/Linares  
1998]

**15.Nd1?!N** [15.Nce2 **A**) 15...Nc4 **A1**) 16.Nxc6 Qc7 17.Qd5 Be6 18.Qd3 Nxb2 19.Qxa6  
Bc4 20.Qa7 Rb7 21.Qa8+ (21.Qa5) 21...Kd7 22.Qa5 Qxc6; **A2**) 16.Qc1 16...Qc7 17.  
Rb1; **B**) 15...Na5 16.Ng3 (16.b3!?) 16...Nec4 17.Bxc4 Nxc4f 0-1 Ortiz,N-Dzagnidze,N/  
Oropesa del Mar 1998 (28)]

**15...Nxd4 16.Bxd4 d5!f 17.exd5** [17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.exd5 **A**) 18...Qc7 19.g3 Bb7  
(19...e6 20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.Bxa6 0-0©) ; **B**) 18...Qd6 19.Ne3 (19.g3 h5©) 19...Bxh2  
(19...Bxb2 20.Nc4 Qf6 21.Nxb2 Qxb2 22.Kf2÷) 20.O-O-O (20.Nc4 Bg3+ 21.Kd1 Qc5μ)  
20...Bf4μ; 17.Ba7!?)

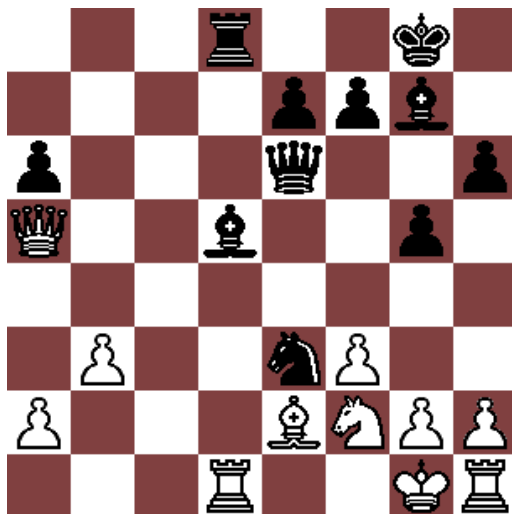
**17...Qxd5 18.c3 0-0 19.Be2** [19.h4 g4 20.Ne3 Qe6μ]

**19...Rd8 20.Qe3 Bb7 21.Nf2** [21.h4!? bxc3 22.bxc3 g4 23.Rg1<sup>3</sup>]

**21...bxc3 22.Bxc3** [22.bxc3 Nc4 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.h4 Rd6!]

22...Qe6!µ 23.Kf1 Bd5 24.b3 Rbc8 25.Rd1 Rxc3! 26.Qxc3 Ng4 27.Qa5 Ne3+ [27...Ne3+ 28.Kg1 Nxd1 29.Qxd8+ Kh7! (29...Bf8 30.Ne4) 30.Kf1 (30.Bd3+ f5µ) ]

28.Kg1



28...Rc8 [28...Nxd1! 29.Qxd8+ Kh7! (29...Bf8 30.Ne4) **A**) 30.Bd3+ f5 31.Bxf5+ (31.Kf1 Nxf2 32.Kxf2 Bd4+-+) 31...Qxf5 32.Qxe7 (32.Nxd1 Qd3-+) 32...Nxf2 (32...Qb1!) 33.Kxf2 Qc2+ 34.Kg3 Qxa2µ; **B**) 30.Ne4 Bd4+ 31.Kf1 Ne3+ 32.Ke1 Nxf2+ 33.Kd2 f5-+; **C**) 30.Kf1 **C1**) 30...Ne3+ 31.Kg1 Bd4 32.Qa5 Ng4 (32...Nxf2 33.Kxf2 Qxe2 34.Qxd5 Qxf2+ 35.Kh3÷) 33.Qd2 Bxf2+ 34.Kf1÷; **C2**) 30...Nxf2 31.Kxf2 Bd4+ 32.Ke1 Bb6! 33.Qb8 (33.Qf8 Qe5 34.Qc8 Ba5+ 35.Kd1 Qd4+ 36.Kc2 Qd2+ 37.Kb1 Qxe2-+; 33.Qe8 Bc6-+) 33...Qf6 34.Bd3+ Kg7-+]

29.Qxa6 Nxd1 30.Qxe6 Bxe6 31.Bxd1 Rc1 [31...Rc1 32.h4 Bd4 33.Kf1 Ra1]

0-1

# I. Smirin - G. Kasparov, 1996

Let's take a look at one of the present world champion's games and at some of his annotations, as there is no one in the world who knows more about the technique of the game than he, so we can only learn ...

The following game was played at the Yerevan Olympiad 1996. It is a fine example how superior and crushing Kasparov's play is when encountering a top Grandmaster. The quoted annotations (in italics) are Kasparov's in Chess Informant No. 67, game 327.

I'd like to state that my additional annotations won't contain any spectacular revelations, their aim is rather to show how an amateur as I am struggles to understand at least some of the complex thoughts of a world champion, which I hope will be interesting or at least entertaining for a wider range of players.

**1. e2-e4 c7-c5 2. Ng1-f3 d7-d6 3. d2-d4 c5xd4 4. Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6 5. Nb1-c3 a7-a6 6. Bc1-e3 Nf6-g4**

A topical and sharp variation.

**7. Be3-g5 h7-h6 8. Bg5-h4 g7-g5 9. Bh4-g3 Bf8-g7 10. Bf1-e2**

More cautious is 10. Qd2 Nc6 11. Nb3 Be6 12. f3 Nge5 13. Nd5 b5 14. Bf2, keeping the pair of bishops. The text move immediately tries to get rid of the annoying knight. A grave mistake would be 10. f3? Ne3 11. Qd2 B:d4, -+.

**10. ... h6-h5 11. Be2xg4**

Database owners might also find examples with 11. h4 Nc6! 12. Nb3 g:h4 13. B:h4 Be6 leading to good play for black.

**11. ... Bc8xg4 12. f2-f3 Bg4-d7 13. Bg3-f2 Nb8-c6 14. Nc3-d5**

Threatening 15. N:c6, followed by 16. Bb6, +-.

**14. ... Ra8-b8! 15. O-O e7-e6 16. Nd4xc6**

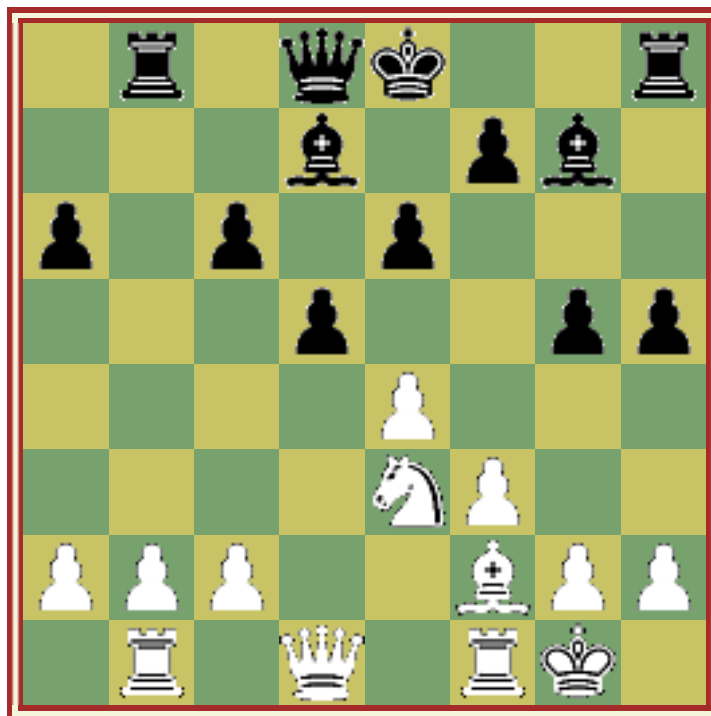
*"N (16. Nc3)"* (Kasparov)

So up to now this seems to have been known theory (at least to Kasparov). Database owners that find games with 16. Nc3 are requested to send them to me, so that we can rate that move. But the strengthening of black's center and the opening of the b-file only helps black, so 16. Nc3 is surely preferable.

**16. ... b7xc6 17. Nd5-e3 d6-d5**

Not good is 17. ... B:b2 18. Rb1 Be5 (18. ... d5 19. R:b2 R:b2 20. Qd4 +-, or 18. ... Ba3 19. R:b8 R:b8 20. Nc4 Qb4 21. Qd3, +-) 19. Nc4.

## 18. Ra1-b1



## 18. ... O-O

*"18. ... R:b2 19. R:b2 B:b2 20. Qd3 with compensation."* (Kasparov)

Hm, where is this compensation after 20. ... Qa5 ? The longer I looked at the position, the more I liked black's side, and with a pawn up ...

One sample variation could be 21. h4 (trying to make use of black's weakened king's position) 21. ... Bf6! 22. h:g5 B:g5 where black has no problems, and 23. f4? fails to 23. ... B:f4 24. Be1 Qc7! (but not 24. ... B:e3+ 25. Q:e3 Qd8 26. Qf4, +-).

After the text move white can equalize the game again, as it looks like, so 18. ... R:b2 could have been the necessary move to keep the advantage.

## 19. c2-c4?!

*"19. c3 h4!? (19. ... f5 20. e:f5 e:f5 21. Nc2 f4 22. Bd4, white stands slightly better) 20. h3 f5 21. e:f5 e:f5 22. Nc2 g4 with an attack."* (Kasparov)

This seems to be correct, e. g. 23. f:g4 f:g4 24. h:g4 Qg5 23. Ne3 Rbe8 with an overwhelming position. But why should white weaken his king's position with 20. h3 ? Much better looks 20. Nc2(!) instead, and now 20. ... g4 21. f:g4 d:e4 22. Qe1! gives white the by far better game.

## 19. ... d5-d4 20. Ne3-c2 e6-e5 21. Nc2-e1

*"21. g4, black stands slightly better."* (Kasparov)



No objections. Black had underrated the following move:

### **21. ... f7-f5**

*"21. ... g4 22. f4 Be6 23. f:e5 B:c4 24. Nd3 B:a2 25. Rc1 with compensation."* (Kasparov)

Another masterly variation which few amateur players would have guessed. The magic text move tears open black's complete king's position, but played by Kasparov, such a move must be good ...

### **22. Nc2-d3 g5-g4**

That's the difference, now 23. f4 is no more playable.

### **23. Nd3-c5**

Trying to get rid of black's queen's bishop before it can cause any harm. After 23. b3 f4 white would have absolutely no counterplay, being forced to watch inactively black bringing his heavy pieces onto the g- and h-files. Another possibility after 23. b3 is 23. ... g:f3 as in the game.

Now white perhaps expected black to retreat his bishop, but Kasparov loses no time:

### **23. ... g4xf3 24. Qd1xf3**

*"24. g:f3 f:e4 25. N:d7 Q:d7 26. f:e4 Qh3 27. Bg3 d3! (27. ... h4? 28. Qh5) 28. b3 Rbd8, black has the upper hand."* (Kasparov)

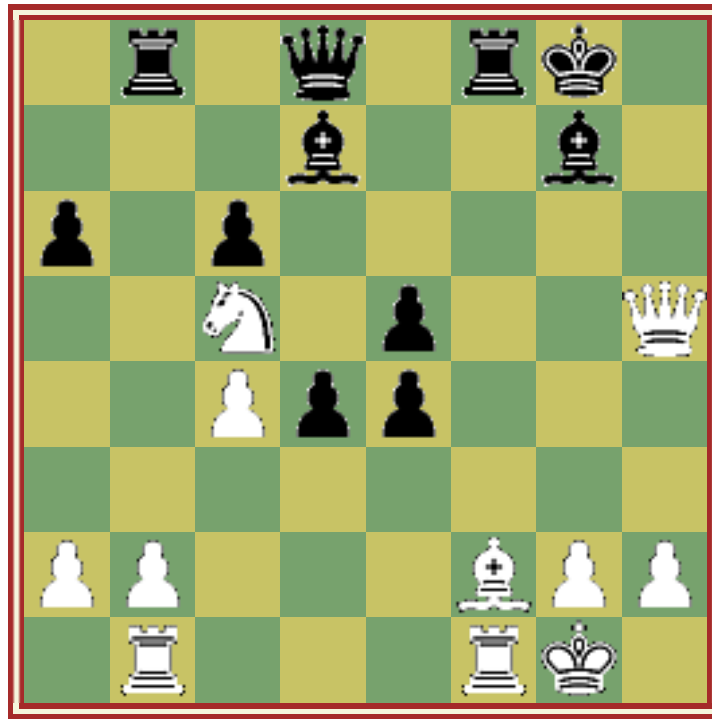
Again a nice variation. 24. N:d7? is not playable on account of 24. ... f:g2 25. N:f8 g:f1 + followed by 26. ... Q:f8 and black is a pawn up.

Kasparov's variation is not improved by 25. f:e4 Bh3 26. Q:h5 B:f1 27. Ne6, as 27. ... Qf6 28. N:f8 Bd3 29. Nd7 Qd8 30 Rd1 Q:d7 31. R:d3 R:b2 is good for black.

### **24. ... f5xe4 25. Qf3xh5**

Of course not 25. Q:e4 Bf5 26. Q:c6 Rb6 (or even stronger 26. ... Rc8) 27. Qd5+ Q:d5 28. cd B:b1 29. Nd7 R:b2, -+.

Now: which move would you expect from a brilliant attacking player like Kasparov?



## 25. ... Qd8-e8!

He doesn't need his queen to attack! Let's see which alternative move he considered:

"25. ... Rf5 26. Qg6

a) 26. ... Rg5 27. Q:e4 Bf5 28. Qe2 (28. Q:c6 Rc8 29. Ne6 R:c6 30. N:d8 Rcg6, -+)  
 28. ... B:b1 29. Ne6 R:g2+ 30. K:g2 Qf6 31. N:g7, unclear.

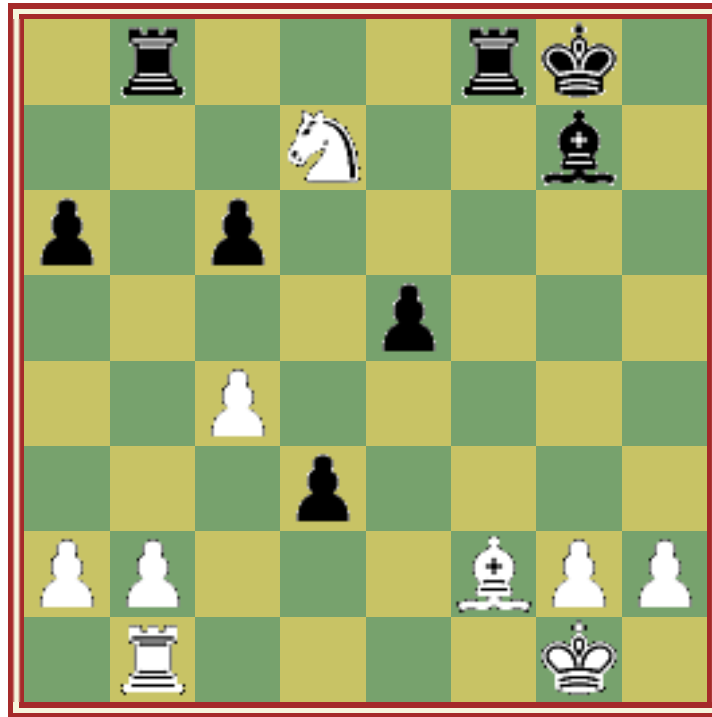
b) 26. ... Rf6 27. Q:e4 Bf5 28. Qe2 B:b1 29. R:b1, black stands slightly better." (Kasparov)

Without hesitating a second, I would have taken the opportunity to win the exchange in variation b), but Kasparov seeks for more (and will find it ...).

Another move worth looking at is 26. Qe2 (instead of 26. Qg6), and after 26. ... e3 27. Bg3, which protects the b2 pawn too, whereupon white's pieces seem to be able to keep things under control; perhaps this is better than 26. Qg6 in Kasparov's variation, in which white loses the exchange.

## 26. Qh5-g5

"26. Q:e8 B:e8 27. N:e4 (27. Ne6 Ne3, -+) 27. ... Bg6 28. Nc5 B:b1 29. R:b1 d3 30. Nd7 ...



30. ...R:b2 31. R:b2 Rd8 32. Kf1 R:d7 33. Ke1 e4 34. Rb8+ Kh7 35. Be3 Bc3+ 36. Kd1 Rf7, -+." (Kasparov)

What a variation!

Let me just add two plain statements:

After 27. b3 (instead of 27. N:e4) black's passed pawns become terrific, a sample continuation being 27. ... e3 28. Bg3 Bg6 29. Rbe1 R:f1+ 30. K:f1 d3 31. R:e3 d2 32. Ke2 Rd8, -+.

After 30. N:d3 (instead of 30. Nd7) 30. ... e4 is decisive (31. Nc5? R:f2!).

## 26. ... Rf8-f5

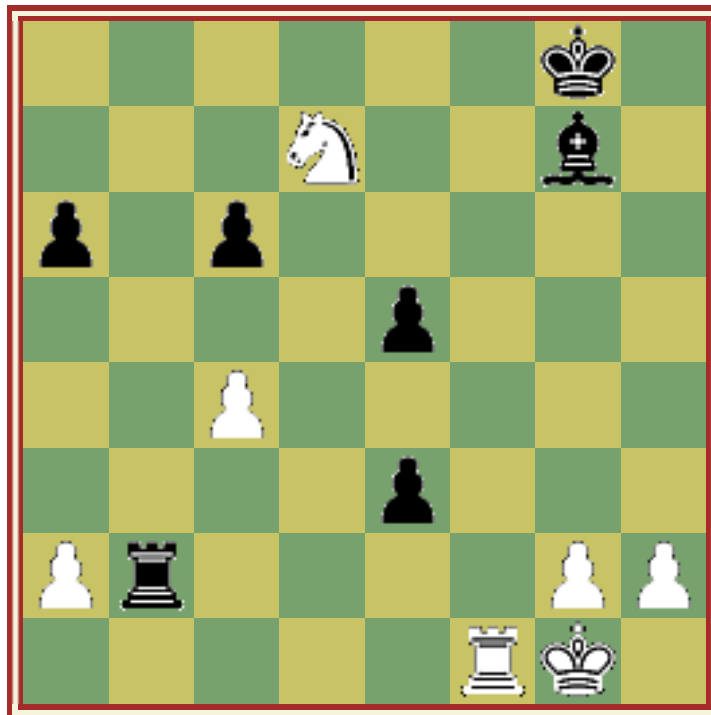
"26. ... e3? 27. Bg3, unclear." (Kasparov)

## 27. Qg5-d2

Of course not 27. Qg4? e3 28. N:d7 Q:d7!, -+. Equally hopeless is 27. Qg3 e3 28. Be1 R:f1+ 29. K:f1 Bf5.

The text move sets some kind of a trap, but Kasparov has calculated further ...

**27. ... e4-e3 28. Bf2xe3 Rf8xf1+ 29. Rb1xf1 d4xe3 30. Qd2xd7 Qe8xd7 31. Nc5xd7 Rb8xb2**



When playing 27. ... e3, Kasparov anticipated this position and evaluated it correctly. Whereas I had much doubt if this position is really as good for black as Kasparov's annotations seem to suggest, when I first played over the game, I now can only admire respectfully his positional judgement.

### 32. Nd7-f6+

"32. Nc5 e4 33. N:e4 e2 43. Re1 Bd4+ 35. Kh1 R:a2, -+." (Kasparov)

Or 35. Nf2 (instead of 35. Kh1) 35. ... Rd2, -+.

In the final position of the variation (after 35. ... R:a2) white is helpless against the threat of 36. ... Ra1.

### 32. ... Bg7xf6 33. Rf1xf6 Rb2xa2 34. Rf6-f1

"34. Kf1 Rf2+, -+." (Kasparov)

### 34. ... a6-a5 35. Rf1-e1 e3-e2 36. Kg1-f2 a5-a4 37. Re1-b1

And again, when first playing over the game, I didn't assess this ending to be lost (remembering Tartakover's "Rook endings are always drawn!"), but I assume that for every grandmaster (and all the more the world champion!) this is an absolute standard position, which he will even win while sleeping ...

### 37. ... a4-a3 38. Rb1-b8+ Kg8-f7 39. Rb8-a8 Ra2-a1 40. Kf2xe2 a3-a2

And white resigned. (0-1)

"41. Kf2 e4." (Kasparov)



# V.Akopian (2693) - V.Kramnik (2777) [B90] Corus Wijk aan Zee (1), 2003

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6**

Here comes the first surprise! Vladimir turned off of the beaten Sveshnikov path (in which he is one of the best experts) and proceeded along a thorny Najdorf path.

**3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4**

Played immediately before white protects the square with f2-f3

**7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5**

In this variation, black gains time against white's bishop, but compare this line to the Sicilian Dragon. White has similar lines and the advance of the black pawns is not clearly in Black's interest.

**9.Bg3 Bg7 10.h3**

Probably the strongest!

**10...Ne5**

## Akopian, Vladimir - Kramnik, Vladimir



There are tons of good options on virtually every move. It is impossible to cover all the theory of this variation in my short commentaries.

**11.f3 Nbc6 12.Bf2**

White should keep a piece on d4 at any cost. Otherwise he has no chance for an opening advantage.

**12...Be6 13.Qd2**

The exchange on e6 would have helped Black to cover his vulnerable squares d5 and f5.

**13...Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Qa5**

Very similar to the Dragon. Perhaps Black should 0-0-0?

**15.a3**



On 15.0-0-0 Black has a computer-like move at his disposal - 15...Bxa2!

### 15...0-0

Boldly played. I think the theorists may find another continuation for Black .

15...Bf6 16.0-0-0 Rc8 17.Kb1 Kf8 18.h4 Rg8 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Qe3 Nd7 21.g3 Bxd4 22. Rxd4 Qc5 23.f4 Nf6 24.Qd2 b5 25.Be2 Rb8 26.f5 Bc4 27.b4± De Firmian,N-Ruck,R, Istanbul ol, 2000;

15...Rg8 16.h4 (16.0-0-0 Bologan,V 16...Rc8 17.Kb1 Bc4 18.Qf2 Rc6÷) 16...Rc8 17. hxg5 hxg5 18.Rh7! Bologan,V (18.0-0-0 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Bxd4 (19...Rxc4 Bologan,V 20. Bxg7 Rxg7 21.Rh8+ Kd7 22.Kb1 Rc8 23.Rxc8 Kxc8 24.Rh1<sup>2</sup>) 20.Bb5+ (20.Qxd4 Rxc4 21.Qa7 Qc7 22.Kb1 Rc5 23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 Kf8= Kasparov,G-Polgar,J, Linares, 2001) 20...axb5 21.Qxd4 Rc4 22.Qd2 Kd7 23.Na2 Qxd2+ 24.Rxd2<sup>2</sup> White has the better pawn structure and the knight is stronger than the bishop. Bologan,V-Xu Jun, Beijing, 2000 ) 18...Bf6 19.0-0-0 Rh8 (19...Nd7 Bologan,V 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Rh1<sup>2</sup>) 20. Rxh8+ Bxh8 21.Kb1 Ng6 22.Bxh8 Nxh8 23.g3<sup>2</sup>

### 16.h4

This is the logical reaction to Black's move. In the Dragon, this pawn confrontation occurs later on h5.

### 16...Ng6

The black queen holds the g5-outpost along the fifth rank.



## 17. hxg5 hxg5 18.b4

This sharp move does not look very good from the positional standpoint. White loosens the c4-square, the shelter of the white king, and the entire queenside. On the other hand, it severs the vivifying connection between the black queen and the g5-pawn. 18. Rh5 Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 18...Bxd4 19.Qxd4 f6 (19...Rfc8 20.f4)

## 18...Qc7 19. Ne2! N



White introduces a good novelty. Vladimir (as the opponents are namesakes, my comment relates to the person who made this move) decided to do his best to keep a minor piece on d4. The Ne2 is heading towards either via d4 or g3. The immediate threat is Bxg7 and Qxg5 (because the N will no longer hang on c3. That is a very logical and consistent continuation. The game Anand,V - Ponomariov,R ( Mainz 2002) saw 19. Bxg7 Kxg7 20.0-0-0 (White can't capture on g5, because the ♙3-knight needs protection) 20...Rh8 21.Rxh8 Rxh8 22.Kb2 f6 23.g3 Ne5 24.f4 gxf4 25.gxf4 Nc4+ 26. Bxc4 Qxc4. White failed to obtain any real advantage. 27.e5

**a)** 27.Rg1+ Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 27...Kf8 28.e5 (28.f5 Bf7 29.e5 fxe5 30.f6 Qc6) 28...a5! (28...fxe5 29.fxe5 d5 30.Rd1 Rh5 31.Nxd5 Ke8 32.Nc3 Rxe5 33.Qd8+ Kf7 34.

*Qh8*,) 29.b5 Qc5 30.Re1 fxe5 31.fxe5 d5÷;

**b)** 27.Qg2+ Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 27...Kf8 28.f5 (28.e5 Rh3 29.Nd5 Bxd5 (29...Rh5 30.exf6 exf6 31.Nc3 Rh3=) 30.Qxh3 Qa2+ 31.Kc1 Qa1+ 32.Kd2 Qd4+ 33.Kc1 Qa1 += (33...Qxf4+ 34.Kb1 ...Qxe5?? 35.Qc8+ Kf7 36.Rg1+-) ) 28...Bf7 29.e5 fxe5 30.f6 exf6 31.Rxd6 Ke7 32.Qg7 (32.Rb6 Rc8 33.Rxb7+ Rc7) 32...Kxd6 33.Qxf6+ Qe6 34.Qxh8 Kc7=;

**c)** 27...dxe5 28.fxe5 f5 29.Qg2+ (29.Rg1+ Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 29...Kf7 30.Qg5 Ke8 ...31.Qg6+ Bf7 32.Qxf5 Rh2μ) 29...Kf7 30.Rd3 (30.Qxb7?? Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 30...Rh2; 30.Rg1 Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 30...Qg4 31.Qf2 Qc4=) 30...Qf4 31.Qxb7 Rh2!÷ Anand,V-Ponomariov,R, Mainz (m/2-rapid), 2002(31...Qxe5 Ponomariov,R; Komarov,D 32.Qxa6)

## 19...f6?!

It looks like Black made this move guided by the proverb "better a small fish than an empty dish." Usually there are not many good options in a bad position. Maybe I am a bit old-fashioned, but I don't like the move made by Kramnik. Black leaves his dark-squared bishop behind the pawn-fence and weakens the white squares. I fully understand that Black often plays Ra8-a7 with the pawns on b7 and a6, and Bf8-d6 with the pawn on d7. I even believe that these moves are not bad. Nevertheless, I can't force myself to like such maneuvers. The only good thing about Black's move is the safety of his king in the nearest future. Apparently the exchange on d4 does not work, but why didn't Black play 19...Be5? The analysts should study 20.Bxe5 (the transposition 20.Qxg5 fails to 20...Bxd4! 21.Nxd4 Qc3+) 20...dxe5 21.Qxg5 Qxc2 22.Rc1 (22.Qh6 does not promise much in view of Rfd8!) 22...Qb3! (in case of 22...Qb2 23.Rh6, White threatens a blow on g6, because the e6-bishop is defenseless) 23.Rh6 Rfc8! Probably Black holds his ground . 19...Bc4 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qxg5.

## 20.Bb2

Now the knight can head for the white squares .

## 20...Bf7

The Be6 will have to move after Nd4

## 21.Nd4 d5!

This move makes sense! By opening the center Black has a chance to get to the white king. It's The standard try for equality and counter-play in the Sicilian

## 22.exd5 Qe5+

After 22...Bxd5 White obtains an advantage with 23.0-0-0. For example, 23...Rfd8 (23...

e6 24.Nf5!) 24.Bd3 Ne5 25.Bf5 Nc4 26.Ne6 Bxe6 27.Bxe6+ Kf8 28.Qc3 and so on.

## 23.Be2

Preserving his opportunity to 0-0 or 0-0-0. In case of 23.Kf2 Qxd5 24.c4 Qd7 25.Qc2! Black also faces quite difficult problems.

## 23...Qxd5 24.0-0-0



With the idea of Bd3 and Nf5. Despite the loosened pawn cover, the white king has a good chance to survive on the queenside (more precisely, to live longer than his black counterpart).

## 24...Rfc8 ?

That is another inaccuracy by Black. The rook would have been more useful on the adjacent square - 24...Rfd8!? The c8-square is meant for the a8-rook. 24...e5!? 25.Nf5

Oxd2+ 26.Rxd2 Black may survive here, but the white Knight will reach d6 and Black has buried the Bg7

### **25.Bd3!**

The bishop not only sets off to e4 but also supports the knight-transfer to f5.

### **25...Ne5**

Losing. Better are with Rc7 or e5. From the point of view of complicating the issue, the continuation 25...a5 26.Be4 Qc4 27.Bxb7 axb4 with the idea of playing 28.axb4 Ra2 29.Bxc8 Rxb2!, made more sense.

### **26.Be4 Qa2**

This move looks menacing, but the concrete calculations proved that White's trumps are higher.

### **27.Nf5**

It is not that clear how Black would have reacted in case of the cool snatch 27.Bxb7. For example, after 27...Nc4 28.Qc3 Nb6 29.Bxc8 Na4 (29...Rxc8 30.Nc6 Kf8 31.b5! followed by Nb4 ) 30.Nf5!, White picks up so many pieces that the black queen is helpless - 30...Nxc3 31.Rd8+ Bf8 32.Nxe7+ Kg7 33.Nf5+ Kg8 34.Bxc3, etc.

### **27...Nc4 28.Qc3!**

The confrontation of the white queen and the black rook is not that dangerous for White.

### **28...Rc7??**

Kramnik miscalculated in a tough position. After the prudent 28...Qxb2+ 29.Qxb2 Nxb2, the transposition into an endgame promises White just a slight advantage. On the other hand, the complications launched with 30.Nxe7+ ( another option is 30.Rd7) look more dangerous for Black. For example, 30...Kf8 31.Nxc8 Rxc8 (inferior is 31...Nxd1 32.Bxb7 Rb8 33.Rxd1 Rxb7 due to 34.Rd8+ Be8 35.Rxe8+! Kxe8 36.Nd6+) 32.Rd7 (32.Kxb2? f5 +) 32...Na4 33.Bxb7. White's rook and pawns should prevail over Black's pieces. Certainly, neither 28...Nxb2 29.Nxe7+ Kf8 30.Nxc8 Qa1+ 31.Kd2 Nc4+ 32.Qxc4!, nor 28...Bf8 29.Bxb7 works for Black.

### **29.Rh7!**

## Akopian, Vladimir - Kramnik, Vladimir



The death in person of the white rook came for Black's fenced-in bishop! Note, that White's move is the best and virtually the only one leading to victory. This fact makes it particularly impressive.

### 29...Qxb2+

The rook is immune: 29...Kxh7 30.Nxe7+ Kh6 31.Rh1+ Bh5 32.g4. The retreat 29...Bf8 fails to a simple 30.Rdh1. Black could have prolonged the game with 29...Nxb2 30.Rxg7 + Kf8 31.Qxb2 Qxb2+ 32.Kxb2 e6 but it did not help either - 33.Rxf7+! With two such strong minor pieces, White easily wins the endgame by creating a passer on the queenside.

### 30.Qxb2 Nxb2 31.Rxg7+ Kf8 32.Rh1

Black resigned.

# Kasparov, G - Polgar, J [B90] Linares (2) 2001

Notes by Boris Schipkov

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 Ng4 7. Bg5 h6 8. Bh4 g5 9. Bg3 Bg7 10. h3 Ne5 11. f3 Nbc6



**12. Bf2 Be6 13. Qd2**

If 13. h4 then 13...Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Qa5 15. Qd2 Rc8 16. Rd1 Bf6 17. hxg5 hxg5 18. Rxh8 + Bxh8 19. Nd5 Qxd2+ 20. Rxd2 Bxd5 21. exd5 Kd7 22. c3 e6 23. Kf2 Bf6 24. g3 Ke7 25. dxe6 1/2-1/2, draw, Medvegý, Z - Szeberenyi, A, Budapest 2001.

**13...Nxd4!?**

In the game Leko, P - Kasparov, G, Linares 2000 Black played 13...Qa5 14. Nb3 Bxb3 15. cxb3 Nb4 16. a3 Ng6 17. Rd1 Nc6 18. Nd5 Qxd2+ 19. Rxd2 O-O 20. b4 b5 21. Nc7 Rab8 22. Nxa6 Rb7 23. Rd5 Na7 24. Bxa7 Rxa7 25. Bxb5 Bxb2 26. O-O Bxa3 27. Rb1 Rc8 28. Bf1 Bc1 29. Rb3 Bf4 30. Rd1 e6 31. b5 Rb7 32. Nb4 h5 33. Kf2 h4 34. Ra3 Rc5 35. Be2 Ne5 36. Rb1 Kg7 37. Rab3 Bg3+ 1/2-1/2, draw.

**14. Bxd4 Qa5 15. a3 Rg8 16. h4 Rc8 17. hxg5 hxg5 18. O-O-O Nc4 19. Bxc4 Bxd4 20. Qxd4!?**

A novelty. If 20. Bb5+ then 20...axb5 21. Qxd4 Rc4 22. Qd2 Kd7 23. Na2 Qxd2+ 24. Rxd2 g4 with more or less equal endgame in Bologan, V - Xu Jun, Beijing 2000.

**20...Rxc4**

Interesting is 20...Bxc4!?

**21. Qa7!?**

If 21. Qd2 then 21...Qc5 22. Kb1 Kd7 with equality.

**21...Qc7 22. Kb1 Rc5 23. Nd5 Bxd5 24. exd5 Kf8 25. Rd2 Kg7 26. b4**



**26...b5!!**

The strongest answer.

**27. Qxa6 Rc3**

Possible is 28. Re1 Rc8 29. Ree2 Qc4 30. Kb2 Rxc2+! 31. Rxc2 Qd4+ 32. Ka2 Qxd5+ 33. Kb1 Qd1+ 34. Kb2 Qd4+ with perpetual check.

**Draw. 1/2-1/2**

## 6.Be3 e5

Opening: **B90 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation with 6.Be3 e5**

In the **Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation**, as opposed to poisonous 6.Be3 the blacks can avoid acute line 6... Ng4 by means of 6... e5. ***Taking advantage of the time 6.Be3 (instead of 6.Be2) the white can play Qd2 and 0-0-0 quickly, delaying the development of the Bf1. The newness 14.Qa5 has the idea to change Q and to enter to a pre-end*** in which the white place a Na5 that creates threats on the black laborers. Nevertheless, this new play does not seem to cause inconvenient the blacks. The own Na5 is located badly, and by means of 17... h6! the Blacks obtain some superiority

**Adams, M (2715) - Kasparov, G (2851) [ B90 ]**  
**KasparovChess GP g/30 Internet (3.2), 2000**  
**[ Juan S. Morgado ]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Nbd7 9.Qd2 b5**

[ 9... h5 is an interesting idea of the English Matthew Sadler, one of the great specialists in the Najdorf variant. ]

**10.g4 Nb6 11.g5**

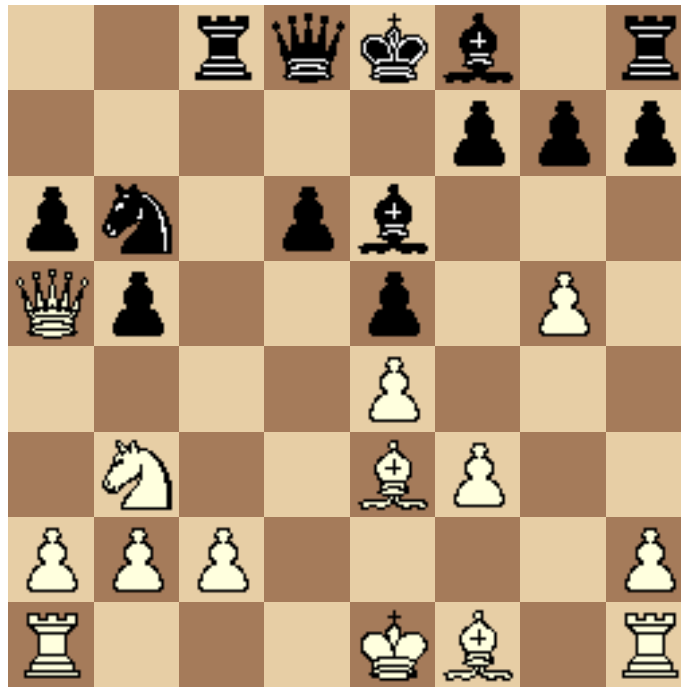
This is an idea reciente.que tries to take control immediately of the square d5.  
[ 11,0-0-0 Be7 12.Qf2 Nfd7 13.Kb1 Qc7 14.h4 0-0 15.g5 b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Bf5<sup>3</sup> Svidler, P-Kasparov, G/Wijk aan Zee NED 1999 ]

**11... Nfd7 12.Nd5**

[ Interesting is 12.f4 Nc4 (12... exf4) 13.Bxc4 Bxc4 14.f5 Be7 15.Rg1 a5 16.Nd5 a4 17.Nc1 Bxd5 18.exd5 Qa5 19.c3 complex Rc8 20.a3 g6, Dobrowolski, P-Iwaniuk, D/Koszalin POL 1999 ]

**12... Rc8 13.Nxb6 Nxb6 14.Qa5!?!N**





A newness whose idea is to change Q and to enter immediately to a pre-end in which the white count on a Na5 that presses the flank lady of the blacks. Nevertheless, this new play does not seem to cause problems to the black. [ had gambled 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 15,0-0-0 b4 (15... Be7) 16.f4 exf4 17.Qxf4 a5 18.Nd4 Rc5 19.Kb1 Be7 20.h4 0-0 21.Nf5 Bxf5 22.exf5 Rfc8 23.Bd3 with attack, Fontaine, R-Mezouaghi, M/Creon 1999/EXT 2000]

**14... Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4**

[ If 15... Rxc4 16.Qxd8+ Kxd8 17,0-0-0 Kc7 = ]

**16.Qxd8+ Kxd8 17.Na5 h6!**

By means of this excellent counterstroke, the blacks balance the game. They take advantage of that the white not yet have enrocado. **18.gxh6** [ If 18.h4 hxg5 19. Bxg5+ Kc7!?=+ ]

**18... g6 19,0-0-0 Kc7**

The Na5 was thought to press on the laborers of the flank lady, but now it is seen that it has an almost null mobility, and is in danger. For that reason Adams releases it now.

**20.b3 Bxh6**

[ Or 20... cxb3 21.axb3 Bxh6 22.Bxh6 Rxh6=+ ]

**21.Bxh6 Rxh6 22.bxc4 g5= +**

[ If 22... Rh3 23.Rd3 Kb6 (23... Rch8 24.Rhd1<sup>2</sup>) 24.Nb3 Rc6 25.Nd2 Kc7=+ ]

**23.Rhg1 Kb6 24.Nb3 Bxc4 25.Rd2**

[ Or 25.Rxg5 Be2 (25... a5 26.Kb2 Be2 27.Rd5 Bxf3 28.Nd2 =) 26.Rd5 Bxf3 27.Nd2 Be2 28.Rg2 Bb5=+ ]

**25... Rg6 26.Kb2 Kc7 27.Rdg2 Rh6 28.Nd2 Be6 29.Rxg5 Rxh2 30.R5g2 Rh3  
31.c4 Kd7 32.Kc3 a5 33.Rg3 Rhh8 34.Rc1 Rc7 35.Rgg1 Rhc8 36.Kd3 Ke7 37.  
Rc3 d5? 38.exd5 Bxd5 39.Re1 f6 40.f4 Kd6 41.fxe5+ fxe5 42.Rec1 Bc6 43.  
Kc2 Rg7 44.Rd3+ Kc7 45.Re3 Rd8 46.Kc3**

[ 46.Rxe5? Rg2 47.Rd1 Ba4+ ]

**46... Rg2 47.Rc2 a4 48.Nb1**

Adams plays to win, but Kasparov will not give any possibility him, the end must be tables. [ 48.Rxe5 Rg3+ 49.Kb4 Rg2 50.Kc3 = ]

**48... Rxc2+ 49.Kxc2 Kd6 50.Rd3+ Ke7 51.Rxd8 Kxd8 52.Kc3 Kd7 53.Kb4  
Kd6 54.Nc3 e4 55.Nd1 Ke5 56.Kc5 Be8 57.a3 Kf4 58.Kd4 Kf3 59.Ne3 Bc6 60.  
c5 Kf4 61.Nc4 Bb5 62.Nb6 Bc6 63.Nc4 Bb5 64.Ne3 1/2-1/2**

# Leko,P (2722) - Kasparov,G (2831) [B90] XXI Linares ESP (3), 21.02.2004

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** Once again, the Najdorf Sicilian

**6.Be3** An invitation to ...e6 and the English attack

**6...e5** Attacking the Nd4 once it no longer has b5 as a square

**7.Nb3** The point is that, unlike in the Sveshnikov (with Nb5-a3-c2, it's hard to coordinate the knights upon the d5-square. The retreat of Nf3 would block the advance of the f-pawn

**7...Be6** And black gets quick counter-play, here fighting for d5.

**8.f3** The idea is as in the English attack, with f3, Qd2, 0-0-0, and g4-g5. If Qd2 first, Black can try Nc6 and d6-d5

**8...Nbd7** All carefully prepared and often played before. The Nbd7 will head to b6 to fight for the d5-square and with Nb6-c4 as an option.

**9.g4** Trying to play g4-g5 when the d7 square is already occupied.

**9...Nb6 10.g5 Nh5** This is dangerous to black when black has castled and white can open the h-file with Ng3. But the white knights are on the queenside and black has time, if needed, to consolidate with g7-g6 and Ng7. Meanwhile, Kasparov gets ready to attack the g-pawn with Be7 and controls the f4-square.

**11.Qd2 Be7** Two attacks upon the g5-pawn and getting ready for a d5-pawn break.

**12.Qf2** Two attacks on the Nb6

**12...Nc4** White must take the Nc4 to preserve the Be3

**13.Bxc4 Bxc4 14.h4** Defending the g-pawn

**14...0-0** Garry decides that, especially with the Nh5 sealing the pawns, his king is safe on the kingside

**15.Na4** In these lines, white has to play a4 against the advanced b5-pawn. Here, the Nc3 heads directly for the well controlled b6-square.

15...f5 16.Nb6



Attacking both the Ra8 and the Bc4 [16.gxf6 Nxf6 17.Nb6 Nxe4-+]

**16...Bxb3 17.axb3 fxe4** Defending well... giving up the exchange (NxBa8) but getting considerable counterplay in the center, relying upon the opening f-file.

**18.Nxa8 Qxa8** No need to rush, and, after b7-b5, the Qa8 will be strongly posted

**19.Qd2** Stepping out the pin on the f-file.

**19...b5 20.fxe4 Ng3** hitting the Rh1 and the e4-pawn

**21.Rg1 Nxe4** Forcing the Qd2 to move

**22.Qd3 d5** White cannot permit black's strong center

**23.Rxa6! Qxa6** [23...Bb4+ 24.Ke2 Ng3+ 25.Rxg3 Qxa6 26.Qxd5+ Kh8 27.c3+/-]

**24.Qxd5+** Winning the Ne4

**24...Kh8 25.Qxe4 Qa1+ 26.Ke2 Qxb2** The end of a forced sequence. Material is even. Black's advanced queen gives him enough to hold

**27.Qc6** Actively defending the c-pawn.

**27...Bb4** The idea is Bc3 and Qxc2

**28.Rf1** [28.Qxb5? Qxc2+ 29.Bd2 Qxd2#]

**28...Rg8** [28...Rxf1 29.Kxf1 Qb1+ 30.Kg2 Bf8 31.Qc8 Kg8 32.Qe6+ Kh8 33.Qf5+/-]

**29.h5 Bc3** Just in time

**30.Qe4 Qa2** With the idea of b4 and Qa6

**31.h6 b4 32.Rf7 Qa1** Eyeing the e1 square

**33.hxg7+ Rxg7 34.Rf8+ Rg8 35.Rxg8+ Kxg8 36.Qd5+** With a perpetual check.

**36...Kg7 37.Qd7+ Kg8 38.Qe6+ Kg7 39.Qh6+ Kg8 40.Qe6+ Kg7 41.Qh6+ Kg8**  
1/2-1/2

## **M.Adams (2720) - Zhang (2639) [B90] GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (4), 14.01.2004**

The leader of the English team won an excellent game! Michael has been in a shadow for several months. It turns out, though, that his best qualities are still there. Only a few can match Michael in positional maneuvering.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3**

The English Attack in the Najdorf Sicilian.

**6...e5**

Black counters in the center, leaving the d5-hole but how is white to organize his knights without Nb5.

**7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3**

With the usual idea of 0-0-0 and g4-g5.

**8...Be7 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.g4 Rc8 12.g5 Nh5**

Nfd7 and white can proceed quickly with h4-h5.

**13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5**

Nimzovitch might not approve, occupying the 5-hole with a pawn, but now white can manoeuver the Nb3 to the nice e4-square.

**14...Nd7 15.Bh3**

As is usual in this opening, the Bf1 is the last white piece to develop, and often, as here, with a bang. It's clear that the bishop exerts a powerful influence on the h3-c8 diagonal, often with the idea of Bg4 or Bxd7 and h4-h5

**15...g6**

Otherwise just Bg4 +-

**16.Kb1**

Safeguarding the King, and part of the idea of Nb3-d2-e4

## 16...Bf8



This line of the Najdorf variation is very popular nowadays. Both sides try to create checkmate attacks on the wings.

## 17.Qc1!N

Subtly played! The queen frees the d2-square for the knight, keeping an eye on the weak c2-pawn. Previously Black successfully withstood White's pressure and even intercepted the initiative. For example, 17.Rhf1 Bg7 18.f4 Nxf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 20.Rxf4 Re8 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Rdf1 Re7 23.a3 Rae8 24.Nd4 Qc8 25.Qb4 Re4 Yanayt, E-Sutovsky, E/ICC/2002 or 17.Bg4 Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.Bxd7 Qxd7 20.Qxf4 Bg7 21.Rhe1 a5 22.a4 b5 (Hautot – Ftacnik, Rethymnon 2003)

## 17...Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.Nd2! Bg7 20.Ne4!

Attacking the d6 square and, in some lines, heading to f6. With this transfer of the passive knight to the center, White has created the positional prerequisites for the

forthcoming attack.

### **20...Be5 21.Rd2**

Lateral defense of c2, with the idea of freeing up the queen after Bxd7, h4-h5, and Rd2-a2.

### **21...Qd8**

In my opinion Black had a better continuation, namely 21...b5! 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.h4 b4 24.h5 a5 25.Rdh2 Ra7!, with mutual chances.

### **22.Bxd7! Qxd7 23.h4**

This is the beginning of the onslaught. White is going to exchange the minor pieces on f6 at the right moment.

### **23...Rc7**

Doubling on the c-file, but there are no entry squares or weaknesses on the white queenside. Maybe Black should have played 23...Rc4, with the idea of sacrificing the exchange on e4 in some lines.

### **24.h5 Rac8**

Black is going to protect the h7-pawn along the seventh rank.

### **25.Rh4!**

Taking advantage of Black's lack of attack to add even more fuel to the attack. It's another good maneuver by Adams. White is preparing to triple the heavy pieces along the h-file. Rdh2 was also strong.



## Adams,Mi - Zhang Zhong



**25...Qf5 26.Rdh2**

Better to double before releasing the kingside tension with hxg6

**26...Re7**

Alas, Black has nothing to do. His pawn counterattack is tardy.

**27.a3**

This move is very characteristic of Adams. Stopping all back rank possibilities. White is in no hurry. Qd2 was fine

**27...b5 28.Qd2**

With an entry square on a5

**28...Rc4 29.Qa5!**

She wants to snatch a pawn. Just in case...

**29...Qc8 30.Nf6+!**

It is time to trade the minor pieces.

**30...Bxf6 31.gxf6 Rec7**

Black must keep control over the seventh rank. Black finally has a threat, but white's threat is bigger and comes first

**32.hxg6 fxg6**

32...hxg6 33.Rh8#

**33.Qe1!**

White is transferring his king to the center. The finish is very close.

**33...Qf8**

33...Rxc2 34.f7+-

**34.Qe6+ Kh8 35.Rh6!**

Black can't avoid material losses.

## Adams,Mi - Zhang Zhong



**35...b4**

Too late, my friend!

**36.axb4 Rxb4 37.Rxg6 Rb8**

37...Rbb7 38.Rg4+-

**38.f7 Rxf7**

38...Qxf7 39.Qxd6 Re8 40.Re6 Rce7 41.Qe5+ Qg7 ( 41...Kg8 42.Rg2+ Kf8 43.Qh8+)  
42.Qxg7+ Kxg7 43.Rxa6+-

**39.Qxd6 Re7 40.Rf6 Re1+ 41.Ka2 Qe8 42.Rxf4**

The time trouble is over; White did not overlook the checkmate. Black resigned .

**1-0**

## P.Leko - V.Anand [B90]

Anand is regaining his former self! In this game he opted for a sharp line of the Sicilian Defense and had no reason whatsoever to regret this decision. Only a few can outcalculate Leko playing on the black side. The Hungarian GM is in deep crisis -- winning positions are not won, and inferior ones are lost. Peter has just two defeats and a series of draws to his name.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Nbd7 9.g4 Nb6**

The alternative is - 9...b5 10.g5 b4, etc.

**10.g5 Nh5 11.Qd2 Be7 12.O-O-O Rc8 13.Rg1 O-O 14.Kb1 g6 15.Qf2 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Bxc4 17.Na4**

The opponents tested this position in one of their previous games. Actually, this is a common case at a high level. The above mentioned encounter went 17.Qd2 Qc7 18.Rg2 f5 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5+ Kh8 21.c3 Qc6 22.Na5 Qxd5 23.Rxd5 b5 ½-½ Leko,P-Anand, V/Monte Carlo MNC 2003/ (23). This time Leko prepared an improvement.



**17...Be6 18.Nb6 Rc7 19.Qd2**

No doubt, these somewhat odd maneuvers by the queen are the fruit of Leko's research. This position must have been on his board in the hotel room during the process of preparation.

**19...Rc6 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5**

21.Qxd5 deserved attention.

**21...Rc8**

This is a typical pawn structure in this line. White's task is to put his pieces on the best spots and carry out a break in the center with c4-c5. Black's counterplay includes the advancement of the f-pawn followed by operations along the open f-file.

**22.Qd3 Qd7 23.c4 f6!**

On 23...f5 White would have ignored Black's pawn, for example with 24.f4!?

**24.gxf6 Rxf6 25.Nd2 Rf7**



### **26.Rc1**

White is preparing c4-c5, but it is too slow! The immediate 26.c5!? looks fresher and more energetic .

### **26...Qf5 27.Rc3!?**

Leko is OK with the exchange of queens, but only in a favorable situation. The sacrifice 27.Ne4 Qxf3 28.Rgf1 is refuted by 28...Nf4!

### **27...b5! 28.b3 Qh3 29.Rgc1 bxc4 30.Rxc4 Ra8 31.Ra4?**

After 31.Rc7 Qxh2 32.Ne4 White had a compensation for a pawn. The position is unclear. The move that White opted for looks like a serious mistake. I think Peter miscalculated. He wanted to win the a6-pawn, but...

### **31...Bf8! 32.a3**

It turned out that the a6-pawn was immune - 32.Rxa6 e4! blows up White's position.

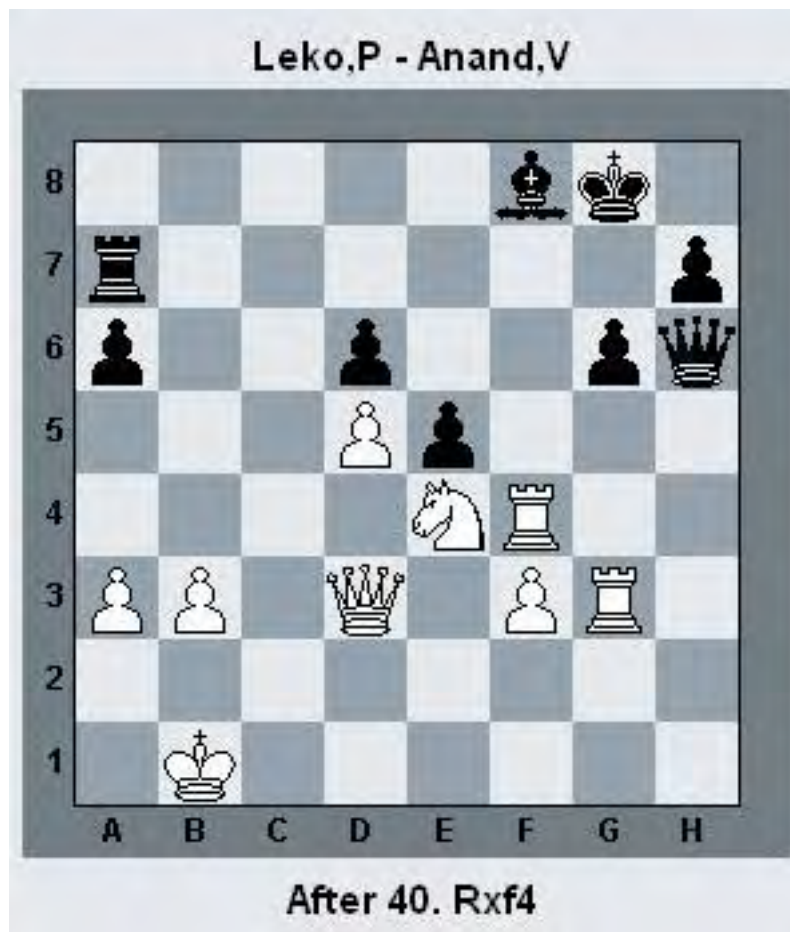
**32...Nf6**

The final portion up to the control was played in Leko's time trouble. The Indian GM outcalculated the Hungarian on every move

**33.Bg5 Qxh2 34.Rh4 Qg2 35.Bxf6 Rxf6 36.Rg4?!**

Better was 36.Qe3 with the idea of Rg1

**36...Qh2 37.Rcg1 Ra7 38.R1g3 Qh6 39.Ne4 Rf4 40.Rxf4?**



The fortieth move became fatal for White...

**40...Qh1+! 41.Ka2 exf4**

After the transfer of the black bishop to g7, the game is over.

**42.Rg4 Bg7 43.b4 a5! 44.Kb3 axb4 45.Kxb4 Qe1+ 46.Kb3 Qc1**

Black scored the third victory in the Najdorf variation! What this a mere coincidence or a pattern?

**0-1**



# Shirov,A (2736) - Kasparov,G (2831) [B90]

## XXI Linares ESP (1), 19.02.2004

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** The Najdorf Sicilian, a familiar guest to modern tournaments

**6.Be3** An invitation to an English attack

**6...e5** More aggressive than ...e6 and the English attack (f3, Qd2, 0-0-0, and g4-g5), but opening up the d5-hole.

**7.Nb3** Unlike the Sveshnikov, white has no easy way to maneuver the Nb3 to control the d5-hole.

**7...Be6 8.f3** In many lines, with the same idea of Qd2, 0-0-0, g4-g5

**8...Nbd7 9.Qd2 b5** Inviting white to counter immediately on the queenside.

**10.a4 b4 11.Nd5** All well known to theory. The capture on d5 will bring the e-pawn to fill the hole, but white will gain immediate pressure upon the b4-pawn.

**11...Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb6** Two attacks upon the d5-pawn forces white to exchange the dark-squared bishop

**13.Bxb6 Qxb6** White will now be able to muster pressure on the b-pawn with a5, Bc4, Nc1-d3, b3, and Ra4, but the absence of the dark-squared bishop gives black much counter-play

**14.a5** Preventing black from defending the b-pawn with a6-a5

**14...Qb7** Two attacks on the d5-pawn

**15.Bc4** The bishop defends the pawn, but in many lines remains awkwardly placed behind the fixed d5-pawn.

**15...g6** To activate the powerful dark-squared bishop on g7 or h6 and 0-0. I have played this variation three times... all of my opponents played ...Be7 here

**16.Ra4** Two attacks on the b4-pawn. A third is available with Nc1, b2-b3, and Nd3

**16...Rb8** Two defenses

**17.Qd3** White can play Qd3 and Qd2 to force a draw... probably played here to gain time on the clock for the complex middlegame ahead.

**17...Ra8 18.Qd2 Rb8 19.Nc1** Usually with the idea of b3 and Nd3 (or Na2) going after the b-pawn.

**19...h5** Seeking counterplay for the future loss of the b-pawn. Bh6 is coming

**20.Nd3 Bh6 21.Qe2** Here's the novelty. There have been two games with Qxb4, one played by Shirov with Black! Qe2 prevents Black's counterplay with e5-e4 and puts pressure on the a6-pawn. White can still threaten the b-pawn with b2-b3. [ 21.Qxb4 Qc7 22.Qa3 0-0 23.Nf2 Bc1 24.Nd3 ( 24.Bb3 Be3 25.0-0 e4 26.Kh1 exf3 27.gxf3 Rfe8 28.Rc4 Qd8 29.Ba4 Re5 30.Ne4 Nxe4 31.fxe4 Ba7 32.b4 Qe7 33.Qc3 Rg5 34.Qf3 Rf8 35.c3 f5 36.Bc2 Rf6 37.Rc8+ Kh7 38.h3 f4 39.Kh2 Rg3 40.Qe2 Qd7 41.Rc7 Rxh3+ 42.Kg2 Rg3+ 43.Kh2 Qxc7 44.Rxf4 Rxf4 45.Kxg3 Rg4+ 46.Kh2 Qxc3 47.Bd3 Qe5+ 0-1 Berg,E-Odeev,H/Bled 2002/EXT 2003 (45)) 24...Be3 25.Kd1 Rfc8 26.Re1 Bh6 27.c3 Rb5 28.Bxb5 axb5 29.Rb4 Nxd5 30.Rxb5 Qc4 31.Rxd5 Qxd5 32.Kc2 Ra8 33.a6 Qc6 34.Ra1 e4 35.Nb4 Qc4 36.Qa5 exf3 37.gxf3 Re8 38.Qd5 Re2+ 39.Kd1 Rd2+ 40.Qxd2 Bxd2 41.Kxd2 Qf4+ 42.Kc2 Qf5+ 43.Nd3 Qxf3 44.Ra5 Qa8 45.a7 d5 46.Nb4 d4 47.Nd5 dxc3 48.bxc3 Kg7 49.Kb3 1-0 Polgar,J-Shirov,A/Linares 2001/CBM 82 (47)]

**21...0-0 22.Nxb4** [ 22.Rxb4 Qa8]

**22...Qd7 23.Nc6** Is the Nc6 well posted or not? It has very little scope in most lines.

**23...Rxb2** Since b3 is usually in by now, it is unusual for Black to have this resource. Kasparov restores material equality, and the rook may have a role along the second rank, but surely it is trapped after Bb3.

**24.0-0 h4** Counterplay is required to counter Ba6 and the advance of the white a-pawn.

**25.Bb3** White prefers to trap the Rb2, but how now to attack it? If white approaches the rook, Kasparov will undoubtedly sacrifice it for the Bb3... meanwhile, black begins his attack.

**25...h3** Attacking the g2-f3 pawn chain at its base, loosening up the white kingside

**26.g3 e4** Kasparov has played very quickly until here

**27.fxe4** Diagram



But now he takes a very long time, perhaps 50 minutes! The threat is Rxf6

**27...Qg4** A bigger threat (Qxe2) defends the Nf6. The exchange of queen's helps black to consolidate... Black gains access to both e5 and e3 for the attack and white's pawns would be fixed on light squares in the endgame.

**28.Qd3** Heading to c3 or d4 to win the trapped Rb2

**28...Qg5** Now on Qc3 or Qd4, Black has Qe3+

**29.e5** Aggressive play in the center. Is Kasparov lost? Many on the ICC thought so.

**29...dxe5** Restoring material equality, but white has Rh4!

**30.Rh4** With two threats, Rxh3 stopping the black attack and Rxh6 Qxh6 Rxf6

**30...e4** Stopping both threats with a bigger threat, the attack on white's queen.

**31.Qd4** Black's position is hanging by a thread. White now has THREE threats in the position (adding Qxb2)

**31...Ng4** To play on, white would have to try Kh1 or Ne7+ [ 31...Qe3+= or does Black have winning chances here?]

**32.Rxh6** [ 32.Rxg4? Qxg4 33.Qxb2 Be3+ 34.Kh1 Qe2-+; 32.Rxh3 Qe3+ 33.Qxe3 Bxe3 + 34.Kg2 with two trapped rooks on the board.]

**32...Nxb6 33.Qxb2** [ 33.d6 Nf5 34.Qxb2 Qe3+ =]

**33...Qe3+ 34.Rf2** [ 34.Kh1?? Qe2- +]

**34...Qe1+ 35.Rf1 Qe3+** perpetual check and a draw **1/2-1/2**

# Shirov, A. (2746) - Gelfand, B. (2681) [B90] FIDE WCh, rapid, New Delhi IND (4.3) 2000

Notes by Boris Schipkov

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 e5 7. Nb3 Be6 8. Qd2 Nbd7 9. f3 Be7 10. g4 O-O 11. O-O-O**

In the game Shirov, A.-Gelfand, B., FIDE WCh, New Delhi (4.1) 2000 White played 11. g5 Nh5 12. O-O-O Qc7 13. Kb1 Rfc8 14. Nd5 Bxd5 15. exd5 Nb6 16. Na5?! Nf4 17. Bxf4 exf4 18. Bh3 Re8 19. Qxf4 Bf8 20. Rd3 g6 21. Rc3 Nxd5 draw, 1/2-1/2.

**11...Qc7 12. Kb1 Rfc8 13. g5 Nh5 14. Nd5 Bxd5 15. exd5 Nb6**

In Tseitlin, Ma-Kaspi, A., ch-ISR, Ramat-Aviv/Modiin 2000 White got an edge after 15... a5 16. a3 a4 17. Nc1 Nb6 18. Rg1 g6 19. Rg4 Nf4 20. Bxf4 exf4 21. Na2 Bf8 22. Rxf4 Bg7 23. Re4 Re8 24. Rde1 Rxe4 25. Rxe4 Qc5 26. Nb4 Nd7 27. f4 Qg1 28. Re1 Qb6 29. h4 Qd4 30. Qxd4 Bxd4 31. Bb5 Nc5 32. Re2 Rc8 33. c3 Bg7 34. Nd3 Nxd3 35. Bxd3 Rc5 36. Re8+ Bf8 37. c4 Rc7 38. Ra8 Re7 39. Kc2 Kg7 40. Kd2 Rc7 41. Rxa4 h6 42. Ra7 Be7 43. a4 f6 44. a5 Bd8 45. c5 hxg5 46. cxd6 Rf7 47. f5 gxf5 48. Bxf5 gxh4 49. b4 h3 50. Bxh3 f5 51. b5 Kf6 52. a6 Bb6 53. Rxb7 Rxb7 54. axb7 Ba7 55. Bxf5 Bb8 56. d7 Ke7 57. Kd3 Kd8 58. Kc4 Kc7 59. b6+ Kd8 60. Kb5 Ke7 61. Ka6 Kd8 62. d6 Ba7 63. b8Q + Bxb8 64. Kb7 Bxd6 65. Ka8 Black resigned, 1-0.

**16. Rg1!?**

A novelty.

**16...a5?**

Better was 16... Nc4 17. Bxc4 Qxc4 with more or less equal position.

**17. a3 a4?!**



**18. Nc5!**

It is a real Shirov.

**18...dxc5 19. d6 Bxd6 20. Qxd6 Nf4 21. Bxf4 exf4 22. Bb5**

White has tremendous compensation for the pawn.

**22...g6?**

Loosing at once. Necessary was 22... Rab8, although after 23. Qxc7 Rxc7 24. Rd6 Na8 25. Rgd1 Rcc8 26. Bxa4 Nc7 27. Bb3 b5 28. Bd5 Nxd5 29. R1xd5 White is better in the endgame.

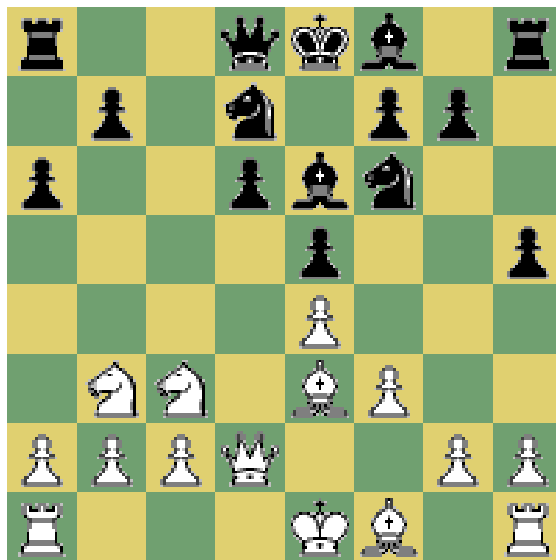
**23. Rge1 Ra5 24. Re8+ Rxe8 25. Qxc7 Rxb5 26. Qxb7**

**Black resigned. 1-0**

## B90 Sicilian Najdorf: 8...h5 vs 6.Be3

Now, I don't play the Sicilian, but it is a fascinating opening to study. In the Najdorf (1. e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6), **6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3** has become extremely popular and has some very interesting variations. 8...Nbd7 and 8...Be7 are most common, but the immediate **8...h5!?** (to deter White kingside expansion with g2-g4) has been reasonable for Black.

After the usual **9.Qd2 Nbd7** (reaching our report position), White has four main plans:



(a) Castle queenside: 10.O-O-O, the most popular choice but not the most successful, scoring only 45%. Most games follow a line like 10...Rc8 11.Kb1 Be7 where I think Black has better chances. An important point regarding opposite-side castling in this 8...h5 variation is that 11.h3 (planning g4) can be met by 11...h4! slowing the White kingside attack.

(b) Gain queenside space: 10.a4 Rc8 (or Be7) 11.a5, often with kingside castling (12.Be2 and 13.O-O) to follow.

(c) Castle kingside: 10.Be2 Rc8 11.O-O, which may transpose to plan (c) if White later plays a4.

(d) Acquire a central d5 pawn: 10.Nd5 Bxd5 (or Nxd5) 11.exd5. The resulting middlegame is less "Sicilian" in character than the other choices above.

All four plans are playable; it's largely a matter of personal style. I prefer (d).





# Transposition to Scheveningen 7.Be2

**GM Michael Adams (2741) - GM Garry Kasparov (2804)**  
**[B90]**  
**ICT / XXII SuperGM**  
**Linares, ESP; (Spain) (Round # 12) / 08,03,2005.**

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One of the more brilliant games that was played in Linares, and one of the prettier and most attractive of Garry's wins as Black;  
(for Linares, and perhaps the whole of his incredible chess career).

And since Garry is retiring, the allure of examining one last Kasparov game - was simply too great for me to resist.

\*\*\* \*\*  
\*\*\* \*\*

{ This game contains a - brief? - look or repertoire of the Najdorf opening, as well as some limited investigation into a few of the more common transpositions into the Scheveningen Sicilian. }

**(NOTE:** I started working on this game ... within just a few days after it was played in March. It is now after April 15th, and I still do not feel that it is quite yet ready.)

**1.e4 c5;** { Diagram? }

The Sicilian - - a favorite defense of both Bobby Fischer, Garry Kasparov, and many other great chess players.

It remains a popular and fighting defense - a good choice for a player who is not satisfied with a draw just because he has to move second.

**White plays an early d2-d4, this line is known as, "The Open Sicilian."**

(The Open Variation of the Sicilian is generally considered to be White's most aggressive and promising line,

especially by the majority of numerous, general reference, opening works.)

**2.Nf3 d6;**

This is the most normal and common way - in modern chess - to initiate the labyrinths of the main lines of the

{ Open } Sicilian. (In older chess games, especially prior to the 1930's, players would generally play 2...e6;

rather than 2...d6. This approach today is often seen as less flexible than the more modern approach, as with the move order that is adopted in this game.)

[ Another way of dealing with this position, and also reaching lines that are somewhat

similar to what

actually occurs in this game, ... would be the following continuation:

**2...e6!?**; **3.d4 cxd4**; **4.Nxd4 Nf6**; **5.Nc3 d6**; **6.Be2 a6**; **7.O-O Qc7**; **8.f4**

**Be7**;

**9.Bf3 Nbd7**; **10.Kh1 O-O**; **11.Qe1**, "+/=" {Diagram?}

and White maintains a solid edge. (This is verified by both the box and the games in the database.)

See the super-GM contest: **Garry Kasparov - Nigel Short**; / (FIDE) **World Team Championships**

/ (Commonly known as ... "**The Olympiad**," a biennial event.) / **Moscow, RUS; 1994**. (1-0, 42 moves.)

[ See - also - MCO-14, page # 292; columns 10-through-12, and all corresponding notes for those lines. ]

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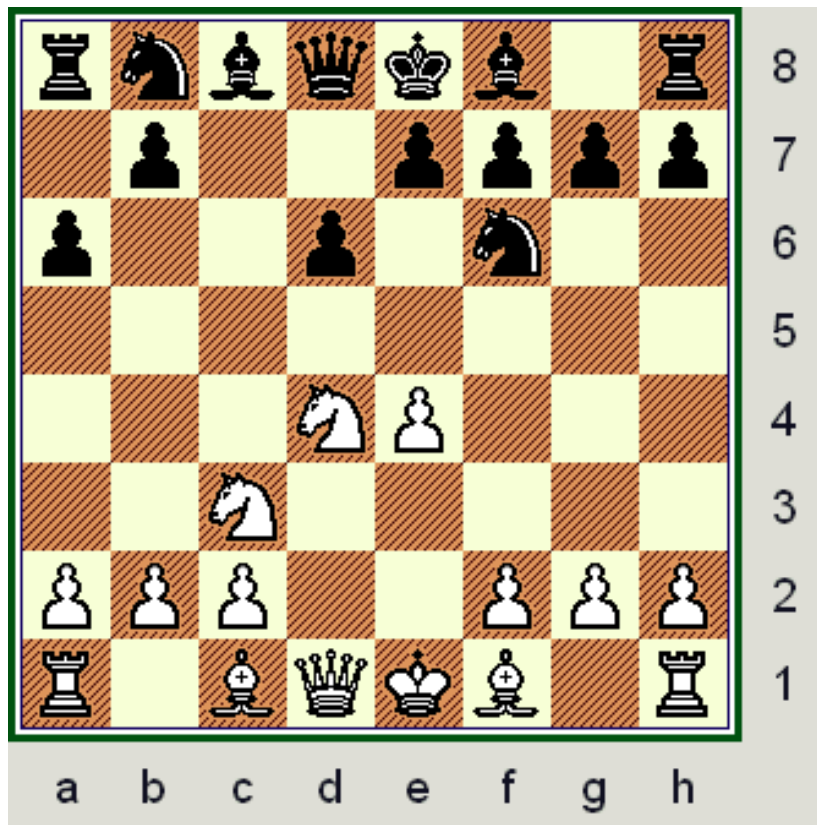
( Another idea for White is: **11.g4!? Rd8!?**; **12.g5 Ne8**; **13.Bg2 Nb6**; **14.f5 e5**; **15.Nde2!?**, "+/=" ('±') {Diagram?} (and) ... "White is prepared to launch an attack on Black's King."

Alexander Nikitin - Ivo Nei; / URS Champ. Qualifier, (semi-final) Riga, LAT; 1952. (1-0, 30 moves)

[ See the excellent book: "(The) Sicilian: ...e6 and ...d6 Systems." By GM Garry Kasparov and also Aleksander Nikitin. Chap. # 8, page # 56; Line A. {Copyrighted by the authors. Published in 1983 - in G.B. - for American Chess Promotions.} ) ]

**3.d4 cxd4**; **4.Nxd4 Nf6**; **5.Nc3 a6**; {See the diagram given, just below here.} The Najdorf Sicilian.

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\*\*\*\*\*

rnbqkb1r/1p2pppp/p2p1n2/8/3NP3/2N5/PPP2PPP/R1BQKB1R (White - move 06)

Bobby Fischer was one of the first to really popularize this system, but literally dozens of top GM's have played it and made contributions to this particular opening system as well.

In the U.S., one of the most influential players to {also} adopt this system as his main opening weapon, was many-time U.S. Champion, GM Walter S. Browne. (Kids today do not realize just how strong he was. Back in the late 1970's, Browne seemed to win the majority of the strong swiss tournaments that he entered. To me, he seemed nearly a chess machine, especially during that time period.)

### 6.Be3, (hmmm)

This has become the move of choice for many top players today ... it is, in essence, the "The English Attack" vs.

The Najdorf Sicilian. Be3 has also virtually completely replaced the lines that were the most popular when I first got into chess. (6.Bg5 & 6.Be2.)

[ The main line used to be:

**6.Bg5 e6; 7.f4 Be7; 8.Qf3 Qc7; 9.0-0-0, "+/=" 9...Nbd7; {Diagram?}**

According to the books on modern, opening theory, White has a fairly large advantage. (But Black also scores well from this position.)

See the game:

**GM John DM Nunn (2620) - GM Matthew Sadler (2665);  
ICT / Annual Sea-side Resort / Premier Section, 9798 /  
Hastings, ENG (UK); 1998.**

(This was a very long and tough game, {72 moves}; that was eventually drawn.)

[ See also: MCO-14, page # 250; columns # 07-12, and all applicable notes as well. ]

\*\*\*\*\*

The other line here for White, which was commonly played most often more than twenty

years ago, would be: **6.Be2 e5!**; **7.Nb3 Be7**; **8.O-O O-O**; **9.Kh1!? b6!?**;  
**10.Be3 Bb7**; **11.f3 b5!**; **12.a4!? b4**; **13.Nd5 Nxd5**; {Diagram?}

The end of the column.

**14.exd5 Nd7**; **15.c3!? bxc3**; **16.bxc3 Bg5**; **17.Bg1 Qc7**; "~" {Diagram?}

GM Nick de Firmian 'scores' this position as equal. ("=") Several strong programs show a distinct advantage for Black ... I prefer an evaluation of "unclear."

**GM V. Anand - GM B. Gelfand**; ICT / **Super Masters** (Inv?)  
**/Dos Hermanas, ESP; 1997.**

{This game was quickly drawn, perhaps the contestants here were not inclined to a real struggle that day?}

[ See MCO-14, page # 256; column # 19, and all applicable notes.  
Especially see note # (f.) for this particular column. ] ]

### **6...e6; (center)**

Kasparov seems to enjoy playing the Najdorf this way, he was one of the main pioneers of this method.

(Of playing ...d6; followed by ...e6; as Black in the Najdorf Variation. {He even wrote a book about this

whole opening system for Black, see the note after Black's second move in this game.})

Technically, this is a transposition into lines that more commonly arise from the Scheveningen Sicilian.

Other lines here for Black would be 6...e5!?!; which seems to be the most common move for Black from

this particular position. The move 6...Ng4; enjoyed a brief spate of popularity, but now seems to have

faded into the background of top-level chess.

### << **B80 Sicilian Defense / Scheveningen 5.Nc3 e6 (transposed).** >> - **ChessMaster, 10th Edition**

(I let the computer "auto-annotate" this game last night while I slept. {Wednesday; April 20th, 2005.})

I gave it around 5 minutes per move ... and just let it run. I wasn't looking for any deep insights, the

machine is downright feeble when it comes to annotating games. I just wanted some confirmation and

feedback concerning my analysis. CM 10ed is one of the most popular of all the commercial chess programs,

it is also one of the strongest chess engines on the market. Thus ... I feel it is silly to totally ignore a

potentially useful resource.)

[ Black often plays an early advance in the center, especially in the lines where White plays an early Be2 on either move six, seven or eight.

For example: (>/=) **6...e5!?**; **7.Nb3 Be7**; **8.Be2 O-O**; **9.O-O b6**; **10.Kh1 Bb7**; **11.f3 b5!**; **12.a4 b4**; **13.Nd5 Nxd5**; **14.exd5 Nd7**; **15.c3 bxc3**; **16.bxc3 Bg5**; **17.Bg1 Qc7**; "~" {Diagram?}

GM Nick de Firmian 'grades' this position as being rather unclear.

(This is supported by the evaluations of five different chess programs.)

**GM V. Anand - GM B. Gelfand**; / ICT / **Dos Hermanos, ESP; 1997.**

{This game was quickly drawn.}

[ See MCO-14, page # 256; column # 19, & also note # (f).

See also page # 262, all lines. ];

\*\*\*\*\*

For a long time, the move of 6...Ng4; was thought to be the virtual refutation of the English Attack. Today, that is no longer true.

One sample line is: (</=) **6...Ng4!?**; {Diagram?}

Once an unimportant sideline, today there are hundreds of master-level games that have arisen from this position.

**7.Bg5 h6**; **8.Bh4 g5**; **9.Bg3 Bg7**; **10.Be2 h5**; **11.Bxg4!? Bxg4**; **12.f3 Bd7**; **13.O-O Nc6**; {Diagram?}

The end of the column here.

**14.Bf2 e6**; **15.Nce2 Ne5**; **16.b3 g4**; **17.f4 h4!?**; **18.Be3 h3**; **19.g3 Nc6**; "="

The position is currently very balanced - about five computer programs confirm (GM Nick) de Firmian's judgment of "equal" here. {Black went on to win the game in thirty-eight moves, however this was only because White misplayed his position.}

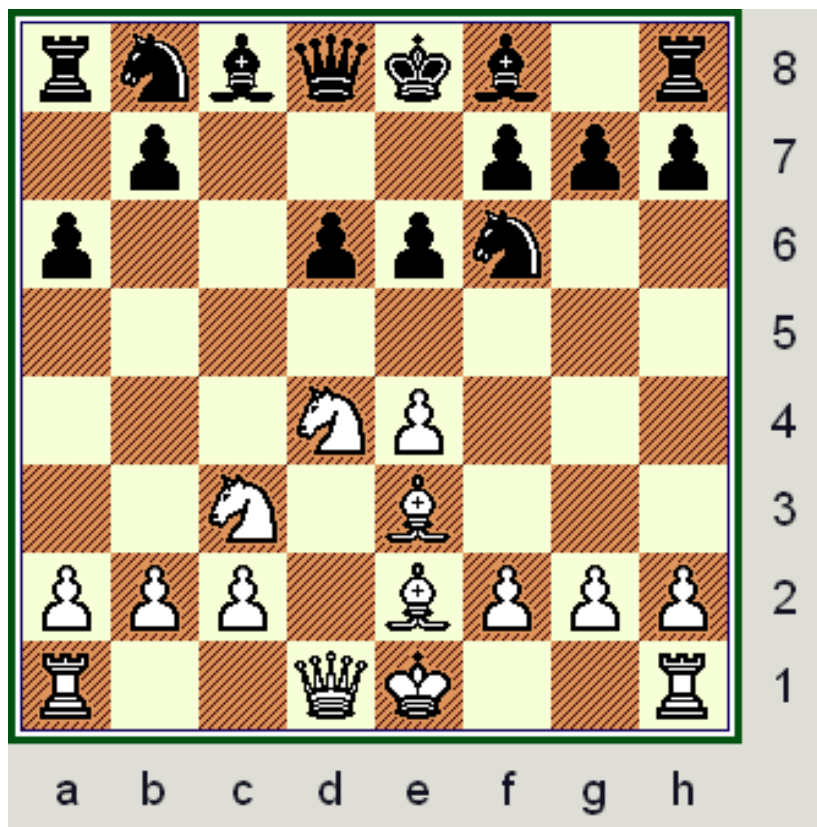
**GM A. Shirov - GM G. Kasparov**; ICT / **XIV Super-GM, (0-1, 38 moves.)**  
/ **Linares, ESP; 1997.**

[ See MCO-14, page # 262; column # 34, and all appropriate notes, especially note # (t.). ] ]

### **7.Be2, (transposition)**

So by the Najdorf route, we are now fully into a Scheveningen Sicilian, with all of its complexities.

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

rnbqkb1r/1p3ppp/p2ppn2/8/3NP3/2N1B3/PPP1BPPP/R2QK2R (Black, move 07)

Some of the main ideas of this whole system are:

- A.) Solid central control, Black has both e5 and d5 covered by Pawns. {These two key squares are not available for White's pieces.}
- B.) Rapid development, Black will almost always castle by move ten.
- C.) The second player basically tries to complete his development behind his Pawn shield.
- D.) Black's structure is solid, sound, resilient and flexible. The second player is free to react to whatever plan the first party devises.

It is probably because of these {good} reasons that this system is so popular, from the club level all the way to the highest echelons of master-level practice.

[ White can also play f3 here:

**7.f3!? b5!?**; **8.g4!?** **h6**; **9.h4 b4**; **10.Nce2 e5**; **11.Nb3 d5**; **12.Ng3 Be6!?**; **13.Bd3!?** **Nbd7**; **14.Qe2!?** **a5**; **15.Rg1 a4**, "=/+ " {Diagram?}  
 Black is clearly better, and maybe very much so here. ("/+ ")

See the crucial contest:

**Vishy Anand - Boris Gelfand**; ICT / **Super-GM / Round #03**  
**Linares, ESP; 1994.** (1/2, 44 moves.)

[ See the excellent book:

**"The Complete Najdorf: Modern Lines,"** (© 1998)

by **GM John Nunn**, and also **GM Joe Gallagher.**

Chapter 09, page # 188; Line # A, and all appropriate notes. ] ]

**7...Qc7!?**; (double-hmmm)

Kasparov decides to develop his Queen early ... rather than commit any of his pieces to a set

configuration.

Needless to say, this is a little unusual, and even a touch risky. (The computer verifies that White retains an edge, almost no matter what Black plays.)

Black could also play his Bishop to e7, or his QN to the d7-square as well.

A detailed search of the database shows that this continuation, **(7...Qc7)**; is very popular as of late, many highly rated players have given it a try.

[ Black could also play: **7...Nbd7; 8.g4 h6!?**; {Diagram?}  
Pushing the Pawn to the d5-square looks like a reasonable alternative.

**9.f4 Nc5; 10.Bf3 e5; 11.Nf5 Bxf5!?**; **12.exf5! Qb6;**  
**13.Nd5!?** **Nxd5; 14.Qxd5**, "~" ("+/=") {Diagram?}

MCO-14 renders an evaluation of "a plus over a line" here. ('±')  
I am not sure if this is valid.

(After 13...Qxb2; 15.0-0, Rc8; White has good play for the Pawn,  
but how much more so remains to be seen.)

**Liang Jinrong - Ruben Rodriguez**; / ICT / **Asian Championships**  
**Penang, Malaysia; 1991.** / {White won a lopsided game, 1-0,  
in only 33 total moves.}

[ See MCO-14, page # 292; column # 12, & also note # (v.). ];

\*\*\*\*\*

Another common continuation is:

**7...Be7; 8.f4 Nc6; 9.0-0 Qc7; 10.Qe1 0-0; 11.Qg3**, "+/=" {Diag?}  
which is a very common position for the Scheveningen Variation.

See the contest:

**GM A. Shirov - GM J. Benjamin**; / ICT / **Horgen CS / 1994.** (1-0)  
{White won an exciting and a very interesting game in 33 moves.}

[ See also MCO-14, page # 289; mainly column # 04, and all  
applicable notes for this column. ] ]

### **8.Qd2, (dark-squares)**

This is part {and parcel} of this whole opening line. Generally this system is outlined by the moves Be3,

Qd2, 0-0-0, f3, and g2-g4. And it seems that these moves can be played ... almost no matter what variation

or move order that Black adopts.

[ The (old) main line from this position used to be:  
**8.a4 Nc6; 9.0-0 Be7; 10.f4**, "+/=" **10...0-0**; {Diagram?}

White has a small, but solid edge, while Black definitely has  
a fair amount of play from this position.

See the following crucial game:

**GM Vishy Anand - GM Garry Kasparov**;  
**ICT / XIV Ciudad de Linares / (Super-GM) / Linares, ESP; 1997.**  
{Black won this contest; 0-1 in 41.}

This is technically a hybrid position, it could have arisen out of a normal Scheveningen Sicilian, as well as The Najdorf. [See MCO-14.]

\*\*\*\*\*

Another line for White here is to play 8.g4, which has led to some pretty flashy wins for White. However, not all is smooth sailing for the first player.

For example:

**8.g4!? d5!?**; (!) **9.exd5 Bb4!**; **10.dxe6!? Bxc3+**; **11.bxc3 Qxc3+**;  
**12.Kf1 fxe6!**; "~" {Comp?} {Diagram?}

Black had good play, and went on to win an extremely impressive game in just thirty-three moves.

**GM Alexei Shirov (2740) - GM Vassily Ivanchuk (2695);**  
**Masters / Sicilian Theme Tournament / Buenos Aires (14), ARG; 10,1994. ]**

**8...b5!**;

Black advances on the Queen-side.

While some might see this Pawn thrust as dangerous or premature, Black must take some risk ...

and "push the envelope," {so to speak} if he is to obtain a satisfactory game in the Najdorf Sicilian,

(or the various branches of the Sicilian that are reached by transposition). And as White has already

moved his KB, there is less chance that he will sack on b5.

\*\*\*

Please note WHY this move is so good for Black ... and why it creates so many opportunities for the second player in the Sicilian.

# 1.) It gains **space** on the Q-side, Black can now fianchetto his QB. Also - there is a Knight outpost on the c4-square that Black might take advantage of later in the game.

# 2.) It undermines White's chances and play on the Q-side. The most important of these ideas is to play ...b5-b4; and kick the White QN off its very best square.

# 3.) Because of the above two reasons, Black is {possibly} in a better position to play the freeing advance (...d6-d5) in the center.

[ Or **8...Be7**; **9.0-0**, "+/=" {Diag?} and White is slightly better. ]

**9.a3, (prophylaxis)**

White must prevent Black from playing the Pawn advance of ...b5-b4; or risk losing most of his edge out of the opening phase.

[ After the moves: (</=) **9.f3!?**, ('?!') **9...b4**; **10.Na4 d5!**; "~" {Diagram?}  
Black has nearly equalized.

\*\*\*\*\*

The continuation of:

</= **9.Bxb5+?! axb5**; **10.Ndxb5 Qc6**; **11.a4 Be7**; "/+" {Diagram?}



simply does not give White enough play for the material. ]

**9...Bb7; 10.f3 Nc6!;**

Black develops his Knight to its most natural square, most of the time this piece comes into the game via the d7-point.

{Especially in the Najdorf Sicilian.}

Both the CB "Power-Book" ... and also CM 10th Edition confirm that this is a departure from the more 'normal' <book> lines.

[ Black can also play:

(</=) **10...Nbd7; 11.0-0-0 d5!?**; {Diagram?}

The computer adores this move ... but it could be premature.

**12.exd5 Nxd5; {Diagram?}**

Black's position looks reasonable, yet ALL the master-level games in the database with this position end in a win for the player of the White pieces!

**13.Nxd5 Bxd5; 14.Kb1, "+/="** {Diagram?}

White is slightly better, the Q-side majority is most significant in the coming endgame.

See the contest:

**GM Michael Adams - GM Veselin Topalov;**

**FIDE World Champ, K.O. (R #5) / New Delhi / Teheran, 2000.**

{White won a well-played game. It ended after move 70, in a hard victory for White ... after a very strenuous R+P ending.} ]

**11.0-0-ON, ('!?)**

Adams has obvious aggressive intentions here, but his position soon blows up in his face.

Maybe the exchange on c6 - as was played in one correspondence game - in a very similar position - was just a little better here.

A search of the on-line database reveals that this might be the first time that anyone tried 0-0-0

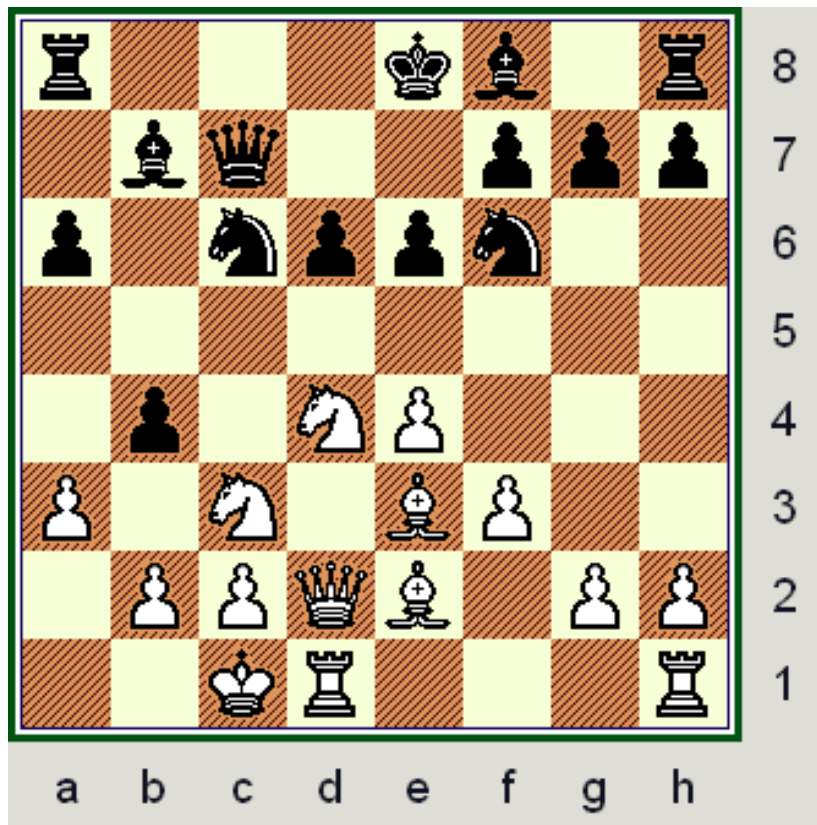
in this particular position. {A Theoretical Novelty ... or "TN."}

[ (>/=) **11.Nxc6 Bxc6; 12.Bd4, "+/="** ]

**11...b4!; (play!)**

Garry immediately breaks on the Q-side without delay.

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

r3kb1r/1bq2ppp/p1nppn2/8/1p1NP3/P1N1BP2/1PPQB1PP/2KR3R (White, move 12)

One might think this is premature, 'theory' generally holds that Black must complete his King-side development before attempting any such maneuver. However, I have noticed during training games with the computer that it will also play this way. (Was this the inspiration for Garry's idea here?)

Another good reason for Black to 'hurry up' with his Q-side play, is that slower methods from these types of positions do not seem to give Black an adequate amount of counterplay in these systems.

[ After the moves: ( $\neq$ ) **11...Be7!?**; **12.g4 O-O**; **13.Nxc6**, {Diagram?}  
The most direct method.

\*\* \*\* \*

( A different way to play this position would be:

**13.g5 Nd7**; **14.h4 Nce5**; **15.f4 Nc4**;  
**16.Bxc4 Qxc4**; **17.f5 Rfc8**; **18.g6**, " $\neq$ " {Diagram?}

White is left with the initiative ... and a slight pull in this position, (according to Fritz 8.0).

**GM Peter Leko (2713) - GM Loek Van Wely (2697);**  
**ICT / CORUS Master's "A" / Wijk aan Zee (1), NED; 01,2002.**  
{White won a convincing game in forty-one total moves.} )

\*\* \*\* \*

**13...Bxc6**; **14.g5 Nd7**; **15.h4**, " $\wedge$ " (Maybe " $\neq$ ") {Diagram?}

White is left with a distinct pull in this position. (I found NO significant,

master-level games to match this position ... in any of the various db's that I searched.) ]

White's next move is virtually forced.

**12.axb4 Nxb4; 13.g4 Be7;**

Black continues to develop.

[ The other option was: **13...Nd7!?**; "~" {Diagram?}  
which also yields a fair position for Black. (Maybe "=/+") ]

**14.g5 Nd7!; 15.h4 Nc5; 16.Kb1, (!?)**

Getting the King off the c-file ... but somehow the b-file does not look that inviting either!

[ Or if **16.h5!?**, then **16...d5!**; "~" {Diag?}  
looks good for Black. (Maybe "=") ]

**16...Rb8!, (Hello!)**

Being the kind, friendly, neighborly sort of fellow that Garry is; his Rook immediately sends out a 'greeting card' ... to welcome the White King into his new digs.

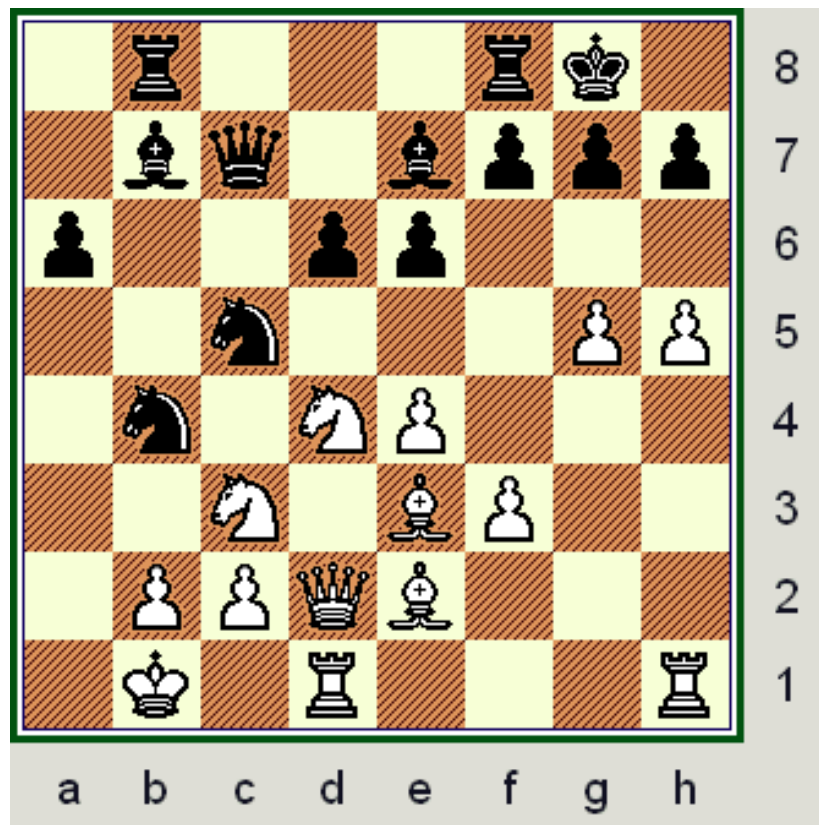
[ </= **16...Qa5!?**; **17.Bc4! Rc8?**; **18.Nb3 Nxb3**; **19.Bxb3**, "+/=) ]

**17.h5 0-0!; (Maybe - '!!')** {See the diagram given here - just below.}

Seemingly ... Black is castling into it here. However, as the variation, {given just below}; adequately proves,

Black could still lose this contest with less than perfect play.

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

1r3rk1/1bq1bPPP/p2pp3/2n3PP/1n1NP3/2N1BP2/1PPQB3/1K1R3R (White, move 18)

Indeed, Fritz 8.0, after several minutes of analysis awards White an edge of more than 1/2 a

pawn!

However, there is a storm coming, and in the ensuing maelstrom of complications, Garry has foreseen the need for his KR to be able to enter the fray without hesitation.

[ Black can lose from this position, as the following piece of analysis clearly demonstrates.

**17...d5!?**; **18.g6! dxe4!?**; **19.h6!! fxg6!?**; **20.hxg7 Rg8**; **21.Rxh7 exf3?!;**  
**22.Bf4!! e5**; **23.Rh8 fxe2**; **24.Qxe2 Nbd3**; {Diagram?}

This is probably forced.

( Not **24...Kf7?**; **25.Bxe5!**, (" +/-") {Diagram?}  
and Black's exposed King is doomed from here. )

**25.Rxd3! Nxd3**; **26.cxd3 Kf7**; **27.Bxe5 Qd8**; {Diagram?}

This is also {probably} forced.

( Not **27...Bd6??**; **28.Qf2+ Ke7**; **29.Qf6+ Kd7**;  
**30.Qe6+ Kd8**; **31.Rxg8+**, (" +/-") {Diagram?}  
and mate next move. )

**28.Qg4! Bc8**; **29.Qf3+! Bf6**; **30.Nc6!**, (" +/-") {Diagram?}

and Black's game is hopeless, as the second player must give up the Queen to avoid mate. ]

Now it's a question of which player will be able to get his attack going the quickest from the current position.

**(This is a common theme when both players have castled on opposite sides of the chess-board.)**

**18.g6! Bf6!**; **19.Rdg1!?**,

"Student body ..... RIGHT!!"

I watched this game as it was being played on the Internet.

At this point, I was unsure of who was better in this position.

[ After the moves: ("=") **19.gxh7+ Kh8!**; **20.h6!? g6!**; "~" {Diagram?}

Black has open lines, while White's avenues of attack on the Kingside are nearly all shut. ]

Black's next move is good simply because the Black Bishop ... which currently is not all that vital ...

steps out of the way for the Black Rook on the b8-square, who has dirty business to attend to on

the b-file here.

**19...Ba8!**; **20.Bg5**,

One cannot say that Adams is not at least making a brave effort to get his assault started on the Kingside.

(If White can trade off Black's KB, he might be able to make meaningful progress in his Kingside ventures.)

Shredder 9.0 likes **20.Rg4** in this position. I spent several hours (one sunny spring morning) looking at the

variations that arise from this move, but never came to any real conclusion about its value.

(It might be better

than **20.Bg5**, but I cannot say for certain ... .. not with any degree of authority.)

[ Or if: **20.gxh7+!?**, then **20...Kh8!**, "=/+ " {Diagram?}  
 {See the note after White's 19th move in this game.} ]

**20...Be5!; (avoidance)**

Garry's excellent footwork keeps him just beyond arm's length, out of reach of Michael Adams' very dangerous jabs.

[ After the moves:

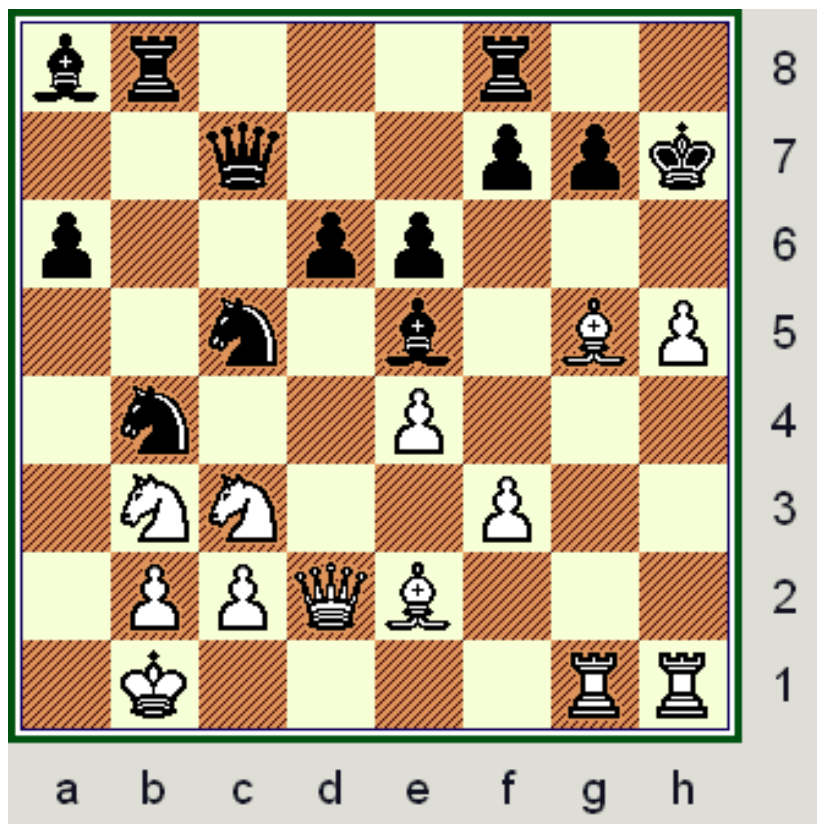
(</=) **20...fxg6!?**; ('?!') **21.Bxf6! Rxf6; 22.hxg6 h6; 23.Ncb5!, 23...axb5; 24.Qxb4**, "~" (Maybe "+/=") {Diagram?}  
 White might be OK here. ]

**21.gxh7+ Kxh7!; 22.Nb3?, ('??') {See the diagram given - just below here.}**

Adams - understandably - makes an error (blunder?) under all the tension that he has been subjected to.

(Adams used quite a bit of time for his first twenty or so moves.)

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

br3r2/2q2ppk/p2pp3/2n1b1BP/1n2P3/1NN2P2/1PQB3/1K4RR (Black, move 22)

As things are about to get really hairy, a close look at the position is definitely in order.

[ After '= ' **22.h6?! g6!**, "=/+ " {Diagram?}

the initiative ("^") is firmly in Black's capable hands.

\*\*\*\*\*

After the much superior move of:

>/= **22.Be3**, "~" (!) (Maybe "=/+") {Diagram?}

it is by no means clear what the outcome of this game would be.

Several - VERY strong! - commercial chess programs, (to include Fritz 8.0 and also ChessMaster 10th Edition); confirm that the correct move for White here is Be3. (Although Black might still have a tiny edge.)

(I have deeply analyzed these lines ... I feel that they are more appropriate for a possible book, than this column.) ]

Now Garry is ready to shoot off some fireworks. (Garry's next move may be worthy of two full exclams, the complications and the various branches of this combination are not easy to work through.)

**22...Nxc2!; ('!!') 23.Nxc5[],**

According to Dr. Fritz, this move was pretty much forced for White.

[ </= **23.Qxc2? Nxb3;** ("-/+") ]

**23...Na3+!;**

A nice "in-between-move," although taking the White Knight on c5 was also still good enough for at least a small advantage.

**24.Ka2[],**

Without question, this was completely forced for White here.

[ </= **24.Kc1?! Qxc5; 25.bxa3? Bxc3;** ("-/+") **{Diagram?}**  
(This is just one example of how White can lose - after 24.Kc1?!) ]

**24...Qxc5; 25.Na4!?, ('?')**

Basically, this is a (slight?) mistake. But as it comes in a position that is already completely {dead} lost, it is difficult {for me} to be too harsh on GM Michael Adams here.

Perhaps Adams saw that Rc1 was easily met by ...Nc4; so he might have decided to play something else ... in the hopes to throw his opponent a small curve ball.

[ After the straight-forward moves:  
>/= **25.Rc1 Nc4; 26.Bxc4 Qxc4+; 27.Ka1 Qb4;** ("-/+") **{Diag?}**  
Black has a winning attack.

\*\*\*\*\*

Of course not:

</= **25.bxa3?? Bxc3; {Diag?}** and Black is winning ("-/+") here. ]

**25...Nc2!!;**

IMPRESSIVE!!!!!!!

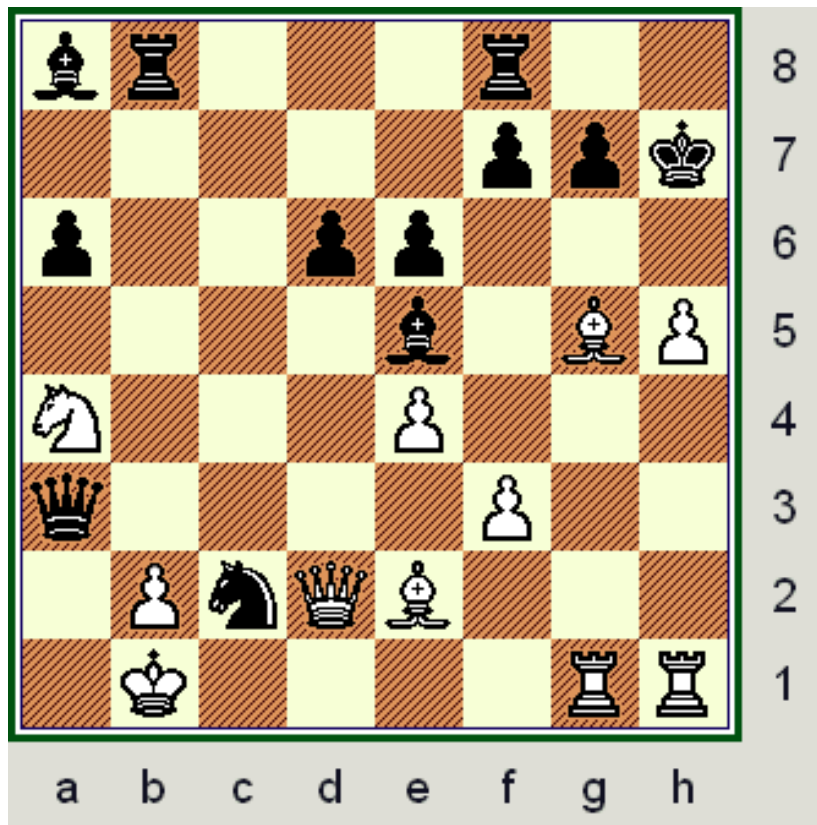
Garry waves his hat at Adams' threat to capture his Queen. (Now 26.Nxc5, is easily met by the sublime move of 26...RxP/b2#!)

It is the fact that Garry finishes this contest with so much flair ... that makes this particular game so very special, at least to me.

White's next move appears to be forced, many of the alternatives were unthinkably bad.

**26.Kb1[], 26...Qa3!;** ("-/+") **White Resigns. (0-1)**

\*\*\*\*\*



(The final position after 26...Qa3.)

\*\*\*\*\*

br3r2/5ppk/p2pp3/4b1BP/N3P3/q4P2/1PnQB3/1K4RR (After B's 26<sup>th</sup> move.)

The final position of this magnificent GM battle royale ... is worth both a look **and** a diagram.

Great play by Garry ... many feel he is the best player ever! Certainly the way that he handles a near 2750-rated player ... WITH THE BLACK PIECES ... is a testament to his (unbelievable?) chess strength!!!

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## **M.Adams (2720) - V.Kramnik (2777) [B85]**

Another rating favorite of the event has not shone so far. The Russian GM convincingly won one game, squeezed out two points in his trademarked style in two drawing endgames... and lost two sharp Sicilian battles on the black side. Certainly, the transition to a new fighting style is a very difficult task. Only old, quality checked weapons (perfect endgame technique and positional craft) brought Vladimir full points. On the other hand, when it comes to a complicated multi-piece middle game, many can play Vladimir as an equal and even beat him.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6**

Should I put a question mark on this move and recommend 2...Nc6?

**3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6**

When facing Michael one can make this committal and very risky move without much fear. Adams is not particularly fond of the English attack. It does not suit his style.

**7.Be2**

White transposes into the Scheveningen.

**7...Be7 8.a4 Nc6 9.O-O O-O 10.f4 Qc7 11.Kh1 Re8 12.Bf3**



## Adams, Michael - Kramnik, Vladimir



After 12. Bf3

### 12...Rb8

If I start talking about this poison it will take forever to finish.

### 13.Qe1 e5

This break in the center looks logical. Black should not let White transfer his pieces to the kingside. It might be fraught with consequences for the black king.

### 14.Nde2

The x-ray of the e8-rook through the e-file makes White play reservedly.

### 14...exf4 15.Nxf4 Be6!

No white piece should be planted on d5! On the other hand, Black has no objection to a pawn on this square.

### 16.Bh5N

An interesting novelty. Michael creatively interprets the position. White provokes

exchanges. The following game, played by two experts in this variation, is very interesting in respect to the fight for the d5-pawn - 16.Be2 Ne5 17.a5 Qc6 18.Ra4 Bd8 19.Qa1!? Bc4 20.Bg1 Rc8 21.Nd3 Be6 22.Nb4 Qd7 23.Rd1 Bg4 24.Bxg4 Qxg4 25.Nbd5 (Dolmatov – Ftacnik, Manila 1990). Eventually White prevailed, although the evaluation of the opening position is far from being clear. After all, the control over the d5-square is not the only factor.

### **16...Nxb5**

White threatened the capture on e6.

### **17.Nxb5 Qa5 18.Nf4**

This is the gist of Adams ' idea.

### **18...Bc4**

Black hopes for 19.Rf2 to jump out with his dark-squared bishop to h4.

### **19.Nd3**

White is just slightly better after 19.Nfd5 Bxd5 (19...Bxf1? 20.Bb6) 20.Nxd5 Qxe1 21. Raxe1 but hardly more. The queens are swept from the board!

## Adams, Michael - Kramnik, Vladimir



### 19...Qd8

In case of 19...Bf6, Black should reckon with 20.Rxf6! With the move made Vladimir is preparing the sortie of his dark-squared bishop.

### 20.b3 Bxd3

Vladimir traded his bishop to create a weakness in the opponent's camp and not to waste a tempo on the retreat.

### 21.cxd3 Bf6 22.Rc1 Nb4 23.Qd2 d5

A logical move. After 23...Rc8 24.d4 White is better. He can double his rook on the f-file.

### 24.Bc5!

This is the beginning of a brisk tactical skirmish.

### 24...Bg5!

In the line 24...Be7!? 25.Bxb4 Bxb4 26.Qf4 dxe4 27.Qxf7+ Kh8 28.dxe4 Black loses a pawn, although he gets some compensation.

### 25.Qf2 Nxd3

This is the most practical decision. It is very hard to pronounce the final verdict on the complications after 25...Bxc1 26.Bxb4 dxe4! For example 27.Nxe4 ( after 27.Qxf7+ Kh8 28.Rxc1 exd3 White runs the risk of losing the game ) 27...Qxd3 28.Qxf7+ Kh8 29.Nd6 Red8 30.Rxc1 Rxd6 31.Bxd6 Qxd6 32.Qxb7! and White emerges with an extra pawn. However, what about 27...Bb2!? and 27...Bg5? There are too many variations . It is very hard to make a final decision.

### 26.Qxf7+ Kh8 27.Bd4 Bh6 28.Rcd1 dxe4 29.Ba7

The opponents made a series of forced moves. At this point Vladimir had a choice. His decision turned out to be wrong!



### 29...Re7?

After this move Kramnik got into trouble. Black should have "discharged" the position with 29...Rf8! 30.Qe6 (the exchanges on f8 lead to the same position) 30...Rxf1+ 31.

Rxf1 Ra8 32.Bb6 Qc8! 33.Qxc8+ Rxc8 34.Nxe4 Kg8. It looks like a draw is inevitable in this endgame.

### **30.Qf5 Ra8**

The sequence 30...Rc8 31.Nxe4 Rd7 32.Bb6! was no better for Black.

### **31.Nxe4**

The pin of the d3-knight is highly unpleasant for Black.

### **31... Rd7 32. Bb6 Qe8 33. a5!**

Right ! White is in no hurry . Black is paralyzed.

### **33...Kg8**

Alas, Black can't untie his pieces - 33...Ne5 34.Rxd7 Nxd7 35.Nd6 Qe7 36.Nf7+ Kg8 37. Nxe6+ g6 38.Qd5+ Kg7 39.Bd4+ Kg6 40.Qf5#

### **34.Qg4**

Here and several moves later Michael missed several possibilities to finish the game by tactical means. On the other hand, he preserved the advantage sufficient for victory. Actually, his strategy makes sense. Facing strong opposition in the time trouble, one should play it safe. There is no bonus for the speed with which the victory is achieved. One of the winning possibilities that I mentioned above is 34.Rf3+ -.

### **34...Kh8 35.Rf8+ Qxf8 36.Qxd7 Ne5 37.Qxb7 g6 38.h3!**

## Adams, Michael - Kramnik, Vladimir



Black has lost a pawn. His king is exposed. The rook has to protect the a6-pawn, whereas the queen is tied to the rook.

**38...Bg7 39.Nd6 h5 40.b4 Qg8 41.Bc5 Qb8 42.Qe4 Kh7 43.Rd5!**

Black can't avoid further losses. Adams made his presence felt. He is a first-class GM, after all! **1-0**

## 6.f3 variation

### English attack in the Sicilian

One of my young students, Rahul Swaminathan, had a good run at the US Nationals, finishing 12th but having a great shot at more. He had many memorable games, including one that looked quite a bit like the following. It wasn't quite the same, actually. Rahul was well acquainted with this "English Attack." I showed it to him as a nice, easy-to-understand weapon against the Najdorf Sicilian.

But here, Rahul faced the Sozin Sicilian and, rather than play the active lines I had shown him, he fell back upon the English attack. Not a bad reaction from a youngster. His opponent permitted white to pursue his set-up and, as is clear, it can be quite a formidable weapon indeed.

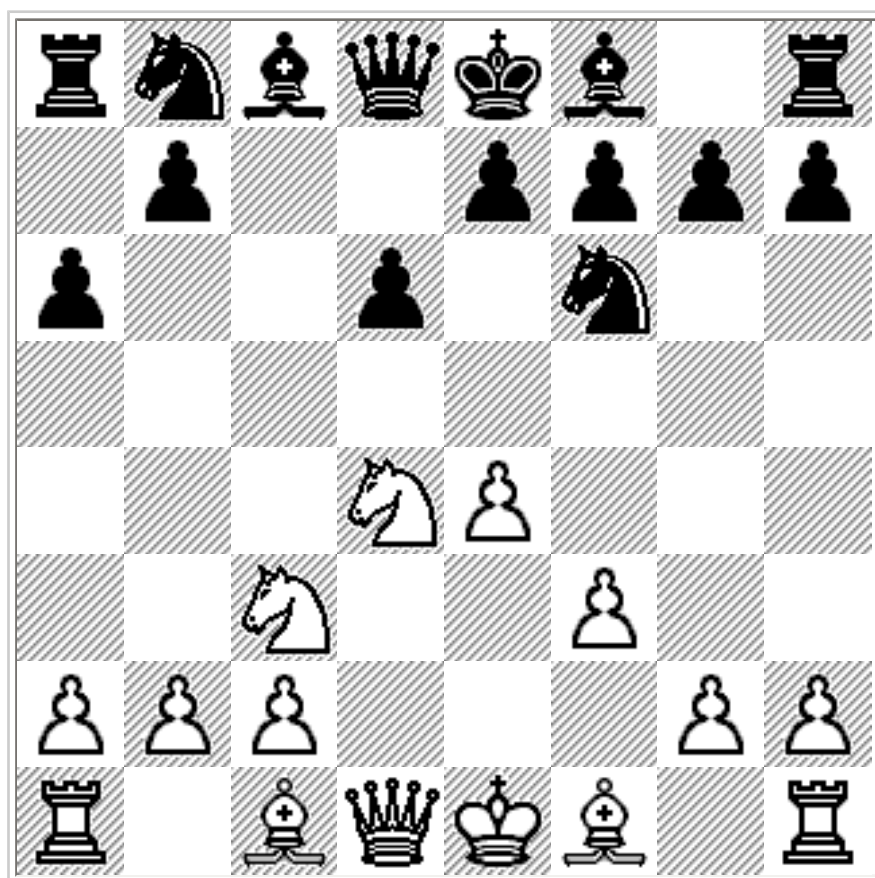
**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.O-O-O O-O 10.g4 b5 11.h4 Bb7 12.h5 Qc7 13.g5 Nd7**



**14.g6 fxg6 15.hxg6 h6 16.Nxe6 Qa5 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Qxh6 \***

# Anand-Kasparov, Linares 1999

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3



*Position after 6. f3*

A new system against The Najdorf Sicilian. The idea is to launch an English attack with the moves Be3, Qd2, O-O-O, g4, h4, g5, etc. but gain an extra tempo by not playing the usual Bc4. Of course, the disadvantages are that White's light-squared bishop does not put any pressure on the black kingside along the a2-g8 diagonal and the fact that White has one less defender on his kingside. In round 7 of this tournament, Topalov also employed this line against Kasparov- unsuccessfully.

## 6... e6

Black's backward pawn center and seemingly cramped pieces give a very deceiving impression. Black, with his pawns on e6 and d6, controls all four of the key central squares- c5, d5, e5, and f5- and his position is practically impenetrable. The Najdorf is not a defensive opening; on the contrary, it is uncompromisingly aggressive. Black uses his queenside pawn minority to launch an assault against the white castled king, while White tries to use his kingside pawn storm to destroy Black on the opposite wing. This is one of the sharpest, most exciting openings in chess, and Kasparov and Fischer have employed it regularly in their careers, despite the fact that there is an incredible amount

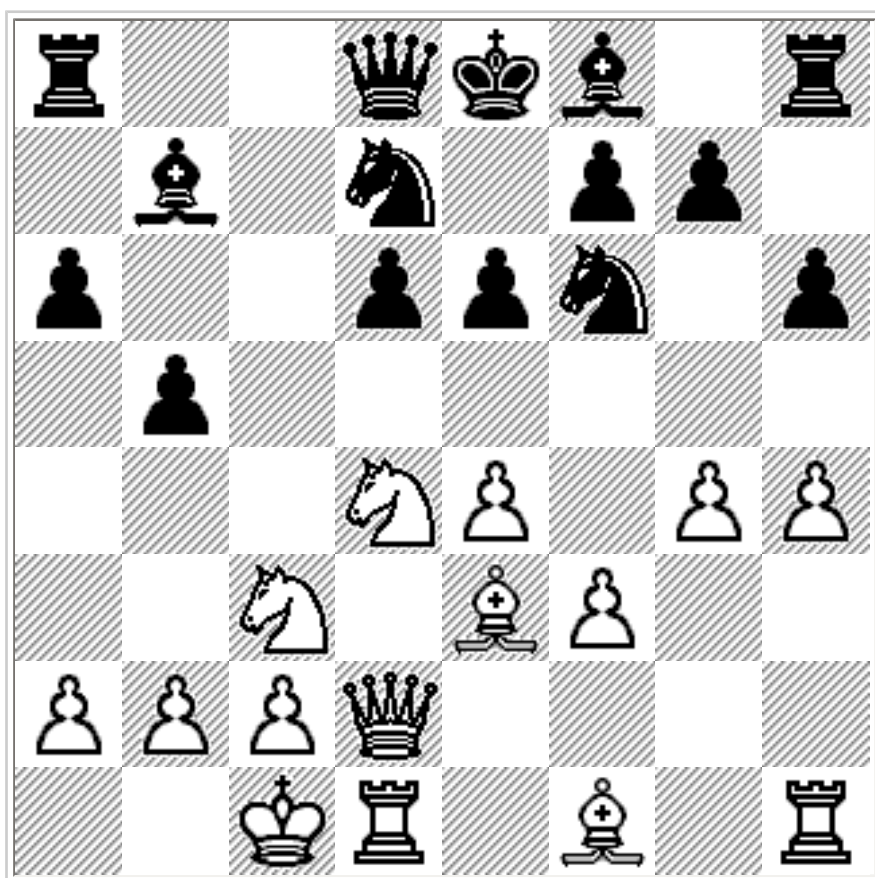


of theory behind it. Kasparov has studied the Najdorf intensely, which makes his opponents at Linares very brave to face him with his favorite weapon.

### 7.Be3 b5 8.g4 h6

A very important preventative move. In this opening, it is extremely important to know when to disregard the opponent's offensive thrusts and focus on one's own attack, and when to take a moment to make a defensive move. Here, if Black had not defended against g5, White would have kicked the knight and followed up with h4, already enjoying a head start in his attack. If Black had wrecklessly tried to immediately continue his own attack with 8... b4?? he would have been punished with 8.gxf6 bxc3 9. fxe7 cxb2 10.exd8=Q+, winning Black's queen and promoting, with check.

### 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.O-O-O Bb7 11.h4



*Position after 11. h4*

### 11... b4 12.Nb1

In round 7, Topalov played 12.Na4 and quickly ran into trouble. The game went 12... Qa5 13.b3 Nc5 14.a3 (not 14.Nxc5? dxc5 15.Ne2 Qxa2 16.Qd3 [16.Qe1 Nxe4! 17.fxe4 Bxe4, hitting the rook on h1 and threatening mate on c2] 16... Be7! (White's queen has almost no room to maneuver) with the very deadly threat of 17... Rd8, winning the queen, because 18.Qc4 is met by 18... Qa1 mate.) 16... Nxa4 15. axb4 Qc7 16. bxa4

d5 17. e5 Nd7 18. f4 Nb6 19. a5 Nc4 20. Qc3 Qe7 21. Bxc4 dxc4 22. Bd2 Bxh1 23. Rxh1 Qb7 24. Rd1 Be7 25. Qf3 O-O-O and Black was winning. Also weak would be 12. Ne2 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5, destroying White's center, opening Black's b7 bishop to bear down on White's weak h1-a8 diagonal, centralizing the knight on the powerful d5 square, and hitting the bishop, and leaving White's knight on e2 with virtually no place to go, with an excellent game for Black.

### 12... d5!

Ideal Najdorf play. "... Black should avail himself of b4 (followed by Bb7 and d5) the instant he has the opportunity." -Fischer.

### 13.Bh3 g5!

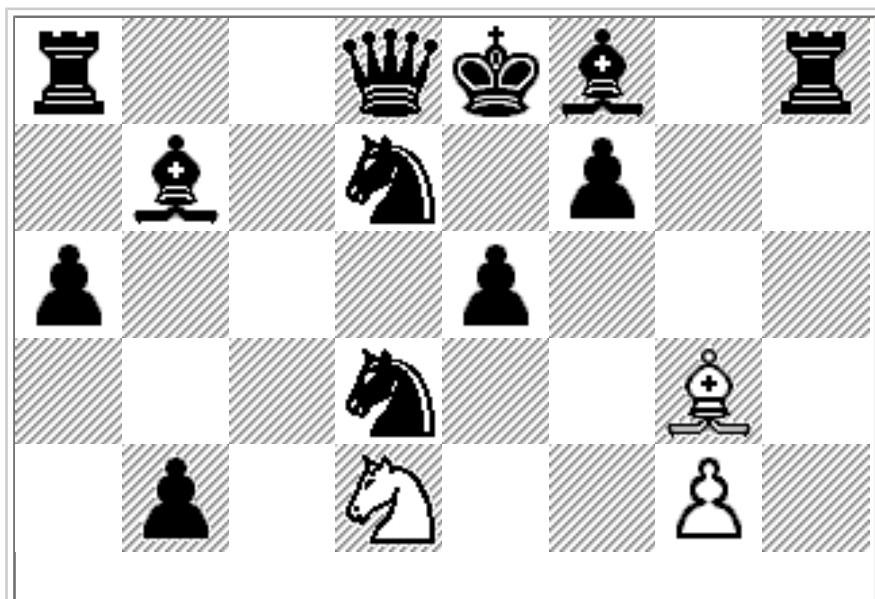
In this intensely sharp variation, both the number-one and number-two players of the world are forcing each other to find the only moves! This defensive strike was mandatory. For example, if Black slices White's center with 13... dxe4 he is met with 14. g5 hxg5 15.hxg4 Ne8 16.g6, destroying black's King position- if 16...fxg6 then 17.Nxe6. Of course, Kasparov and Anand had both analyzed this position before the tournament for many intense hours and had already prepared all of these moves beforehand.

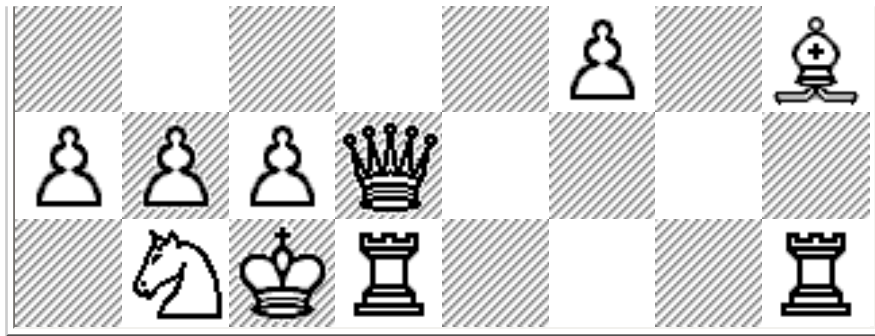
### 14.hxg5 hxg5 15.exd5

If 15.Bxg5 White's pawn on e4 falls.

### 15... Nxd5 16.Bxg5

"Conceptual rival in the topical line of Sicilian. I was told that Spanish GM San Segundo (who came to Linares from Madrid for several days) had analyzed this position with Anand for more than 15 hours! However, (the) Indian seemed to be unready to face my next move." -Kasparov.





*Position after 16. Bxg5*

**16... Qb6! 17.Bg2**

White reinforces his weak h1-a8 diagonal. The f3 pawn was very weak, but if it moved the White rook on h1 was subject to a discovered attack by the Black bishop on b7.

**17... Rxh1 18.Bxh1 Rc8 19.Re1**

On 19.f4 black plays 19... Nc3! (threatening Nxa2 mate!) 20.bxc3? (20.Nxc3? bxc3 leads to the same result) 20... bxc3 threatens both cxd2 and Qxb2 mate, and 21.Nxc3 is met by 21... Ba3 mate!

**19... Qa5**

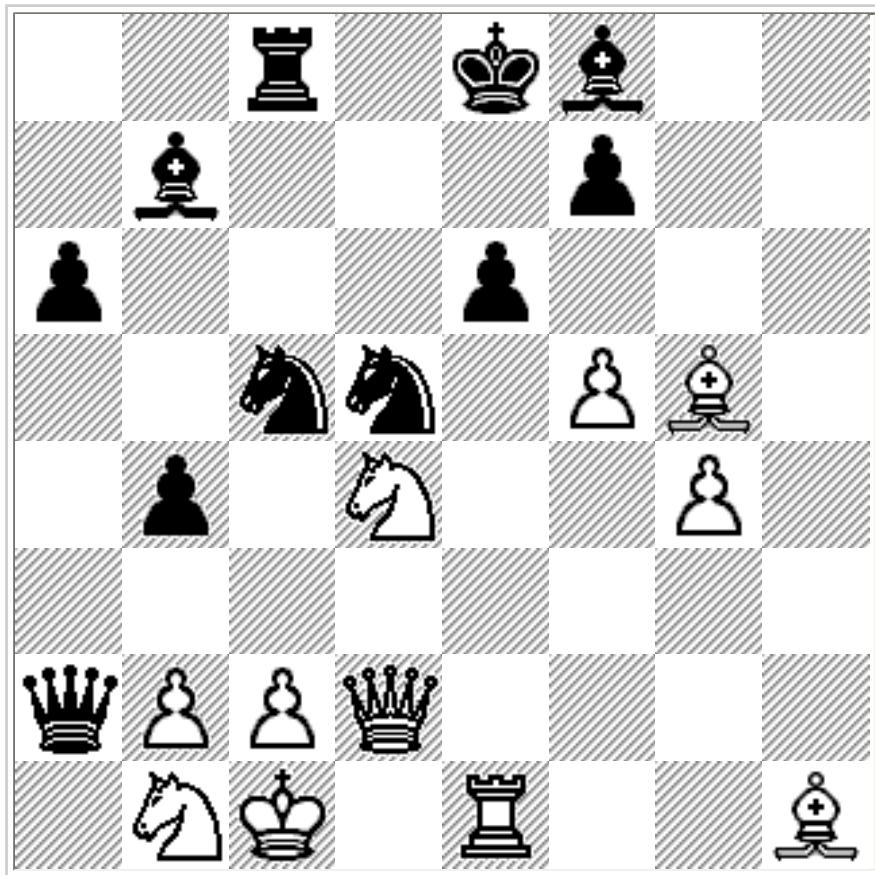
If 19...Rc4, then not 20.Nxe6? fxe6 21.Qd3 (seemingly strong as both Qxc4 and Qg6 mate are threatened) 21... Be7! 22.Bxe7 (On 22.Qxc4, Black punishes White with 22... Bxg5+ 23.Nd2 [23.Kd1? Ne3+ 24.Rxe3 Qxe3, winning] 23... Ne3, with a completely dominating position) 22... Rd4, but rather 20.Nf5! with attack.

**20.f4**

"After 20.a3 Qb6! 21.a4 Nc5 22.b3 Bg7, or 21.f4 bxa3 22.bxa3 Bg7, Black stands much better." -Kasparov.

White has no decent way to defend against Qxa2, so he attempts use the f and g pawns to revive his attack.

**20... Qxa2 21.f5 Nc5**



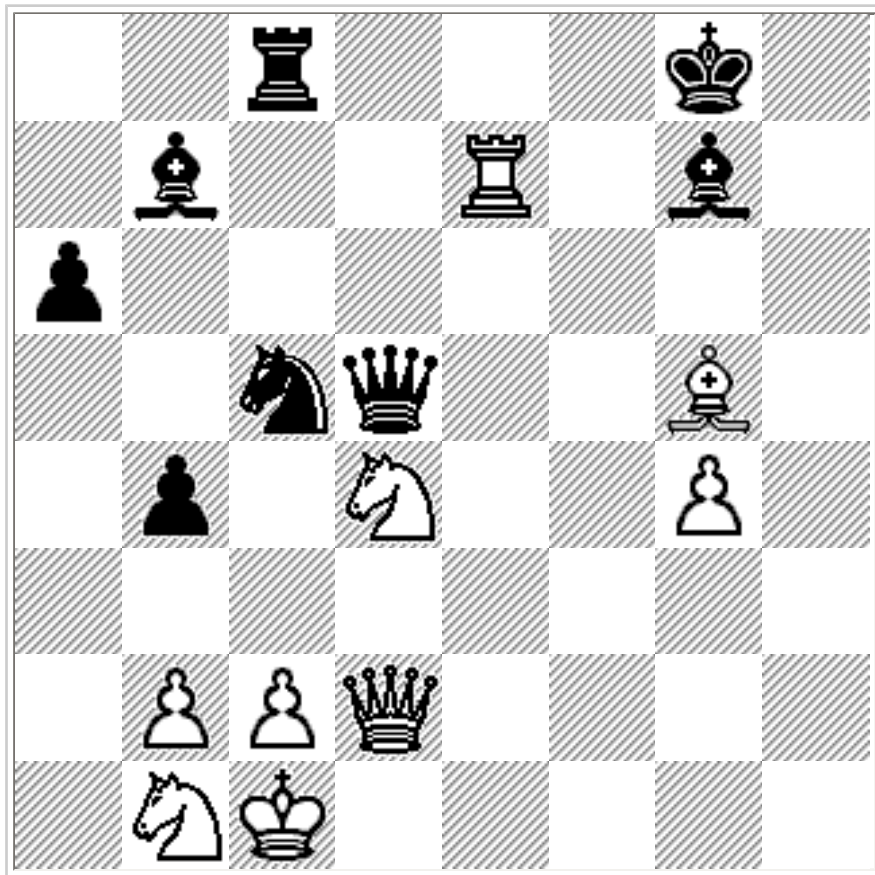
*Position after 21... Nc5*

## **22.fxe6 Bg7!**

"This position is very complicated and it takes much time to analyze it. 22...fxe6!? is still to be tested. I decided to follow the prepared line and I was right: in zeitnot Anand did not find the only solution: 23.ef Kxf7 24.Qf2 Kg8 25.Qf5! Bxd4 26.Qg6 with perpetual check." -Kasparov.

Although Black's kingside pawn formation will now be completely demolished, his king will find adequate shelter and White must deal with the threat of ... Bxd4 Qxd4 Nb3+ and Nxd4.

**23.exf7+ Kxf7 24.Bxd5+ Qxd5 25.Re7+ Kg8**



*Position after 25... Kg8*

Kasparov is a phenomenal tactician. Now Anand finds that he has no defense to the threat of ... Bxd4 and ... Nb3+. If now 26.Ne2 then 26... Nb3+ spears the queen. If the White queen moves, Black just captures the knight and enjoys an extra piece and a winning position. 26.Be3, supporting the knight, doesn't help White at all because Black can still play 26...Bxd4 and on either 27.Bxd4 or 27.Qxd4, 27... Nb3+ wins White's queen. Thus, Anand has reached a losing position and must now give up material in order to stay in the game. Incredibly, though, Kasparov is still in a position that he reached in his analysis long before the game began!

### **26.Rxg7+ Kxg7 27.Nc3**

If 27.Nf5 then 27... Qxf5! 28.gxf5 Nb3+ with a winning position for Black.

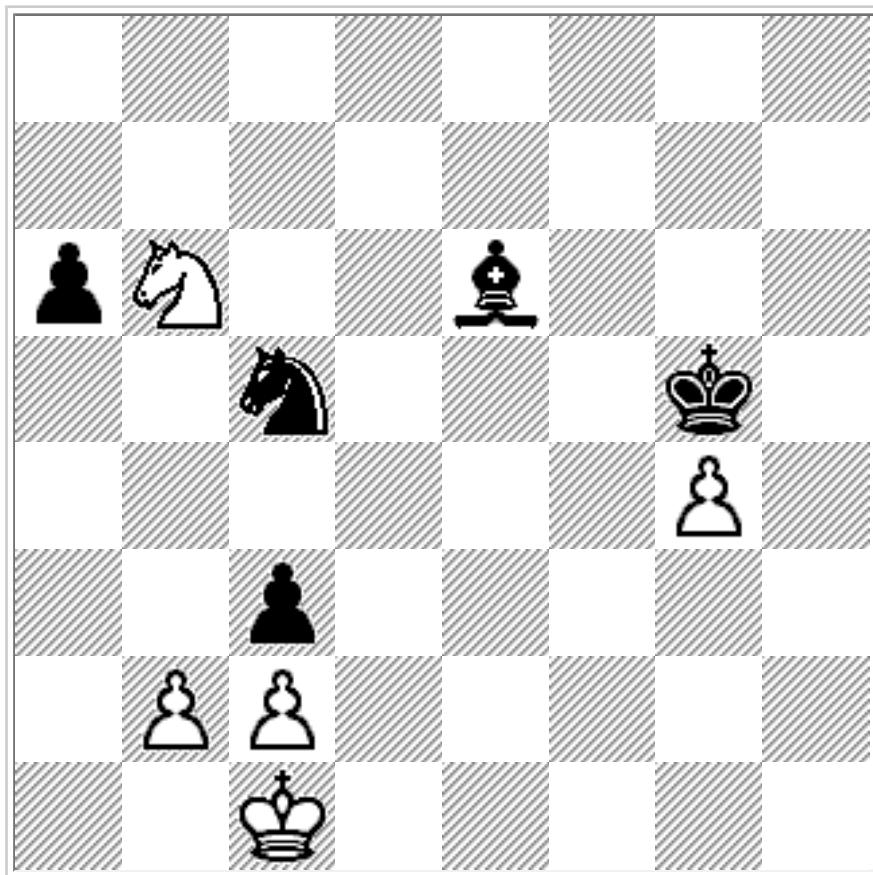
"Finally Anand made a move that I had not analyzed at home! In lost position he managed to find probably the best practical chance." -Kasparov.

### **27... bxc3 28.Nf5+ Kf7**

Black can't avoid the knight fork. On 28... Kg6 or 28... Kg8 White plays 29.Ne7+ and wins the queen. If 28... Kh7 then 29.Qh2+ followed by 30.Ne7+ also wins the queen. On 28... Kh8 Black gets mated after 29.Bf6+ Kg8 (29...Kh7 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Qg7 mate) 30. Qg5+ Kf8 (30... Kh7 31.Qg7 mate) 31.Qg7+ Ke8 32.Qe7 mate. The only other choice is 28... Kf8.

"I could trade White knight instead of the bishop: 28...Kf8 29.Bh6 Ke8 30.Qxd5 Bxd5 31.Nd6 Kd7 32.Nxc8 Kxc8, but I felt it was better to play against the knight in the ending." -Kasparov.

**29.Qxd5+ Bxd5 30.Nd6+ Kg6 31.Nxc8 Kxg5 32.Nb6 Be6**



*Position after 32... Be6*

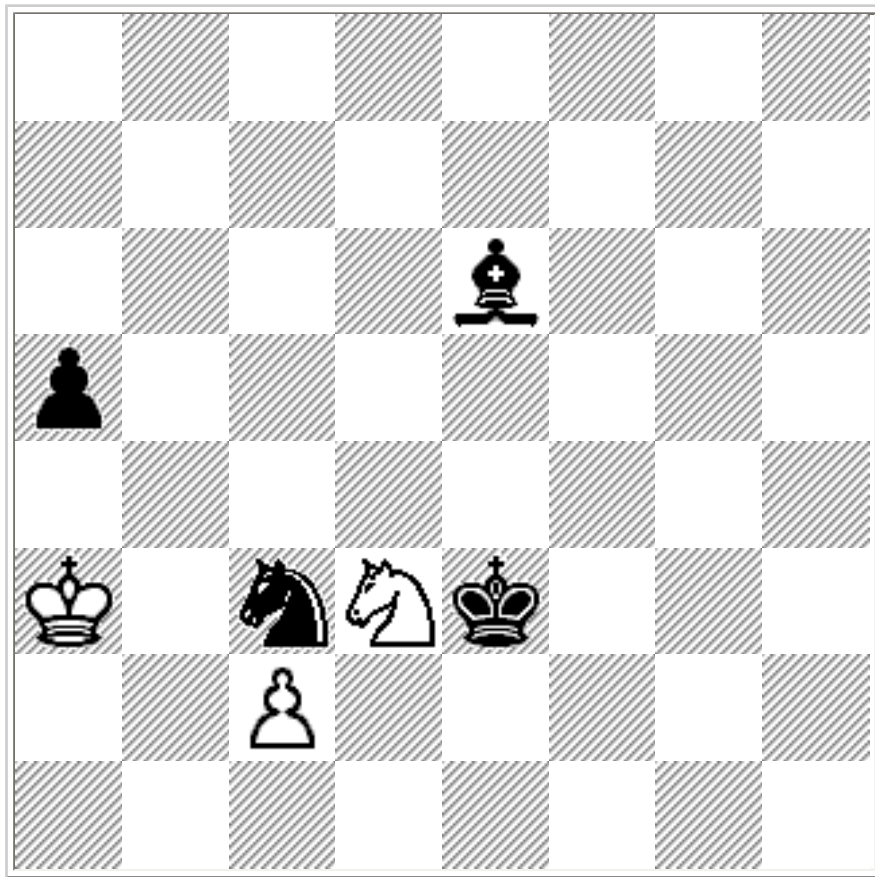
**33.bxc3 Kxg4**

The ending is technically won for Black, but to win is no simple matter. Black must play very accurately in order to acquire the full point.

**34.Kb2 Kf4 35.Ka3 a5 36.Na4 Ne4?**

"I could win after 36...Nd7! 37. Nb2 Nb6 38.c4 Bxc4 39.Nxc4 Nxc4 40.Kb3 Ne5! The game line gives White good chances for a draw." -Kasparov.

**37.Nb2 Nxc3 38.Nd3+ Ke3**



*Position after 38... Ke3*

**39.Nc5 Bf5**

On 39...Bd5 White plays 40.Nb3 Bxb3 41.cxb3 Kd4 42.b4 a4 43.b5 with equality.

**40.Kb2 Nd5 41.Nb7 a4 42.c4 Nb6 43.Nd6 Bd3 44.c5 Nd5 45.Ka3 Bc2**

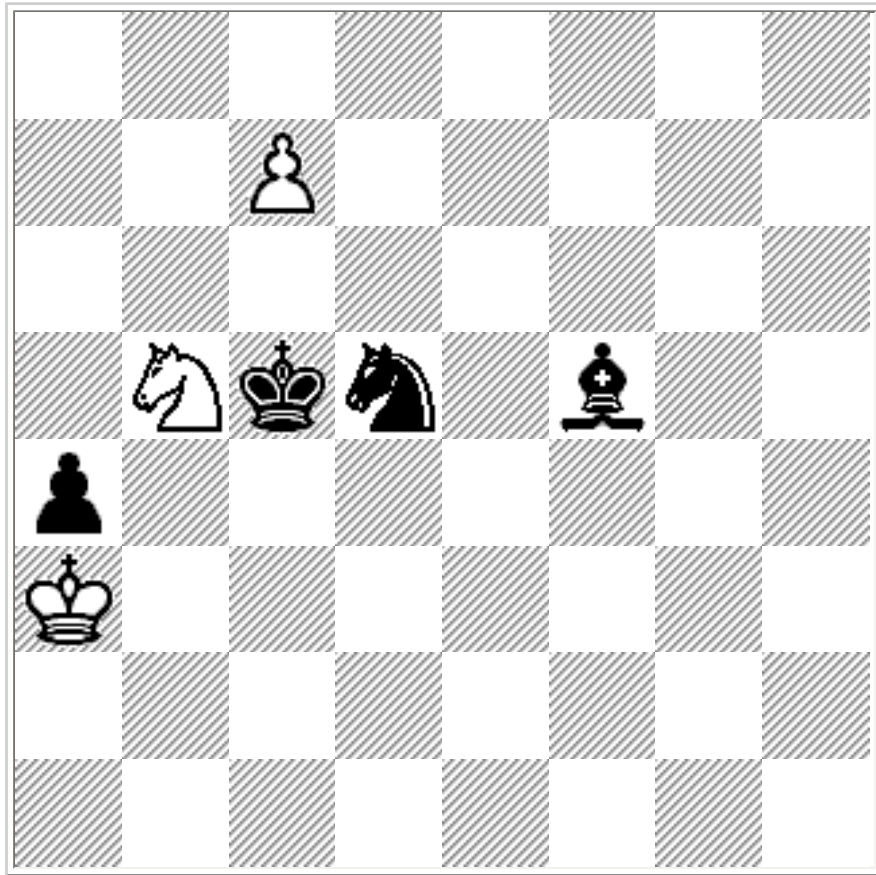
"After 45...Kd4 46.Kxa4 Kc5, the ending is, probably, won but it can be confirmed only with computer analysis; and even in this case I`m sure it will take more than 50 moves." -Kasparov.

**46.Nb5 Ne7 47.Na7?**

"It`s Anand`s turn to make a mistake. Simple 47.Nc3 Nf4 48.Nxa4 Nc6 49.Kb6 Ne5 50.Kb2 looks definitely drawish." -Kasparov.

Now Black loses quickly.

**47... Kd4 48.c6 Nd5 49.Nb5+ Kc5 50.c7 Bf5! 0-1**



*Position after 50... Bf5*

After 51.Kxa4 Black delivers the decisive blow with 51... Nb6+! 52.Ka5 Nc4 53.Ka4 (53. Ka6 Bc8) 53... Bc2 mate.

A classic struggle between two giants of the chessboard!



**Leko P. (2736) Kasparov G. (2847)**  
**Ciudad de Linares (3) Linares, Spain, 2003**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f3 e6!?



Kasparov unexpectedly deviates from his favorite e5 and chooses to enter the well known English attack - one of white's most dangerous weapons against the Sicilian Najdorf Defense!

7. Be3 Nc6 8. Qd2 Be7 9. O-O-O O-O 10. g4 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 b5 12. g5 Nd7 13. h4 Qc7 14. Kb1



We are still in book theory. Both players are pushing the pawns not only for the purpose of destroying the opposing King's fortress, but also to achieve control over the central square "d5".

**14... b4 15. Na4 Bb7 16. b3 Bc6!?**

A novelty! Kramnik in a similar position played d6-d5, but Kasparov's move is a more ambitious one!

**17. Nb2!**



17. Qxb4? Rfc8 18. Rd2 Rab8 with a strong attack

**17... a5 18. h5!**

With the idea of crashing through black's King-side with g6!

**18... Ne5!**

A typical strategy within many Sicilian motifs. Kasparov activates his minor pieces while simultaneously attacking white's center and blocking diagonal d4-h8.

**19. Be2**



19. Bg2 loses the initiative after... 19... a4! 20. f4 axb3 21. cxb3 Qa5 and it is hard to stop black's attack...the only move appears to be... 22. a4 bxa3 23. Qxa5 Rxa5 24. fxe5 axb2 25. exd6 Bxd6 With a better endgame for black.

**19... a4 20. Nc4!**

Leko defends very well. He develops his pieces in the center and at the same time eliminates black's threats on the Queen-side!

**20... Bb5 21. Nb6 Rab8!?**



21... Bxe2 22. Nxa8 Rxa8 23. Qxe2 Bxg5 It is not so clear if black has enough compensation for the exchange.

**22. h6!**

Again the best move! Leko decides to force Kasparov to weaken his kingside position, leaving dangerous holes for a long time.

**22... Bxe2 23. Qxe2 g6 24. f4! Nc6 25. Nxa4 Nxd4 26. Rxd4 e5 27. Rc4**

White has a clearly better position. Black failed to create chances on the Queen-side and his own King-side is in a serious dilemma.

**27... Qa5!**

Black's only chance for activity.

**28. f5 Bxg5 29. Rc6**



29. f5 Bxg5 30. Qg4 Qd8 which is not so clear..

**29... Rfd8 30. Qg4**

This move does not achieve anything. 30. f5 Bxg5 31. Qf2 With the idea of Nb6! - but black has the strong reply... 31... Qa8! 32. Rc7 Rf8 33. Nb6 Qxe4 with strong counterplay. Now White's King would be precarious also!

**30... Be7 31. Rd1 Qa7 32. c3!**

Now Black's position has become extremely dubious. The Knight is on the way to the power d5 square! and it is not so clear how to stop it. Garry's last chance is to drum up counterplay during Leko's time pressure.

**32... Bf8 33. f5 Bxg5 34. h7+ Kh8!**



34... Kxh7 35. Rh1+ Kg8 36. cxb4 Bg7 37. Nc3! and next Nd5 with a winning position.

**35. cxb4 Rxb4 36. Qf3 Rdb8**



Both players are in deep time pressure, Leko has only 1 min left here. Garry takes the bull by the horns and makes the risky decision to play for the win! A practical decision and one that is easy to recommend...but difficult to calculate! 36... f5! 37. exf5 gxf5! (37... Qxa4 38. Qd5! Be7 39. fxg6) 38. Qxf5 (38. Nc5 Qf7!) 38... Rf4! 39. Qg6 Qxh7 40. Qxh7+ Kxh7 41. Nc5 Re8 With good chances for escape.

**37. Nc3 Qb7 38. Rcx d6??**



The critical blunder in Leko's terrible time pressure, he only had 10 seconds here!  
 After.. 38. Nd5!! Qxc6 39. Nxb4 Rxb4 (39... Qb7 40. Nd5 With a huge advantage - the Knight finally occupies the strong central d5 post. ) 40. Qxf7 White is winning!

**38... Rxb3+ 39. Ka1 Rxc3**

39... Rb2!? 40. R6d2 Rxd2 41. Rxd2 Bh6 With a serious advantage for black.

**40. Qf6+ Kxh7!**



Garry spent 2 minutes here to find this strong move! Less clear was... 40... Bg7 41. Rd8 + Rxd8 42. Qxd8+ Kxh7 43. Rh1+ Bh6 44. Qd2 g5 45. Qxc3 Qxe4 and in this unbalanced position black's chances are probably better .

**41. Rb6 Qc7 42. Rh1+ Bh6 43. Rxb8 Rc1+ 44. Rxc1 Qxc1+ 45. Rb1 Qc3+ 46. Rb2 Qc1+ 47. Rb1 Qc3+ 48. Rb2 Kg8 49. a4 Bc1 50. Qb6 Kg7?**



Inaccurate, better is.. 50... g5! 51. Ka2 Bxb2 52. Qxb2 Qc4+ 53. Qb3 Qxe4 54. a5 g4  
 And black is winning easily.

**51. Ka2 Bxb2 52. Qxb2 Qc4+ 53. Ka3 Qxe4 54. a5 g5 55. Qd2 Qf4?!**



55... Kg6! 56. a6 g4 57. a7 Qf3+ 58. Ka2 g3 And black should win it.

**56. Qd8 Qc1+**

Not enough 56... g4 57. a6! g3 58. a7 Qe3+ 59. Kb2 Qxa7 60. Qg5+ with a perpetual check .

**57. Kb4 Qb2+ 58. Kc5 Qc3+ 59. Kb5 Qb3+ 60. Kc5 Qc3+ 61. Kb5 Qb3+**

Another repetition. Garry gains some extra thinking time by making these checks, but

the position is looking very drawish now.

**62. Kc5 Qe3+ 63. Kb4 Qe4+ 64. Kc5 Qc2+ 65. Kb5 Qe2+ 66. Kb6 Qe3+ 67. Kc6 g4 68. a6 g3 69. a7 g2 70. a8=Q Qe4+ 71. Qd5**

71. Kc7 Qxa8 72. Qg5+ draw!

**71... Qc2+**



71... Qxd5+ 72. Kxd5 g1=Q 73. Kxe5 with a drawish position - White's King is too close to black's passed pawn for black to make progress.

**72. Kd6 Qg6+ 73. Kc7 g1=Q 74. Qxe5+ Qf6 75. Qh8+ Kxh8 76. Qxf6+ Qg7 77. Qh4+ Kg8 78. Kd6 Qg6+ 79. Ke5 Kg7 80. Qe7 Qg3+ 81. Kf5 Qg6+ 82. Ke5 Qh6 83. Kf5 Qg6+ 84. Ke5 Kh7 85. Qh4+ Kg8 86. Qd8+ Kg7 87. Qe7**

1/2-1/2 [GM Alterman and J.Doss]



# Topalov,V (2735) - Anand,V (2766) [B80] GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (12), 24.01.2004

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**

Another Najdorf Sicilian

**6.f3 e6 7.Be3**

And, yet again, the English attack

**7...b5 8.g4 Nfd7**

The Nf6 will often be attacked and need to retreat here. Rather than wait for the pawn advance, Anand speeds its development towards b6

**9.Qd2 Nb6 10.a4**

But here's a disadvantage of this approach. White has not yet castled 0-0-0 and can isolate the black a-pawn

**10...bxa4 11.Nxa4 Nxa4 12.Rxa4 Be7**

The exchanges have made ...0-0 a bit safer

**13.g5**

[13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Bb7 15.Rfa1 Nd7 16.Nb3 Rb8 17.Ba7 Rc8 18.Na5 Ba8 19.Bxa6 Ne5 20.Be2 f5 21.gxf5 exf5 22.Nc4 Qe8 23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.Bd3 fxe4 25.fxe4 Qh5 26.Be3 Rc6 27.Qe2 Rg6+ 28.Kh1 Qxe2 29.Bxe2 Bc6 30.Rc4 Bb5 31.Ra5 Bxc4 32.Bxc4+ Kh8 33.Rxe5 Ra8 34.Rf5 Rg4 35.Rf1 Rb8 36.Bd3 Rxb2 37.e5 Rb8 38.Ba7 Rf8 39.Rxf8+ Bxf8 40.Bf2 Rg5 41.Bd4 1/2-1/2 Anand,V-Kasparov,G/Kopavogur 2000/EXT 2001 (41)]

**13...0-0 14.h4 Bd7**

Perhaps Bb7 or even ...d5

**15.Ra1 Nc6?!**

This just loses the a-pawn

**16.Rxa6 Qc7**

[16...Rxa6 17.Bxa6 Qa8 18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Bd3 Ra8 20.Ke2+/-]

**17.Kf2 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 e5 19.Be3 Rxa6 20.Bxa6**

Black's compensation? An exposed white king and now, an open f-file. Perhaps Be6 first to fight for the d5-square.

**20...f5 21.gxf6 Bxf6 22.Qd5+ Kh8 23.Bc4 Be8**

With the idea of Bh5 with play against the white f-pawn.

**24.Be2 Bf7 25.Qd2 Bh5 26.b3 Qe7 27.Kg2 Qf7**

[27...Bxh4 28.Rxh4 Qxh4 29.Bg5 trapping the queen]

**28.Rh3**

[28.Qxd6 Be7 29.Qd1 Qg6+ 30.Kh3 Qe6+ 31.Kh2 Bxh4+/=]

**28...Be7 29.b4 h6 30.b5**

The passed pawn is becoming dangerous

**30...Qg6+ 31.Kh2**

Black is counting on the inactivity of the Rh3 and the weakness of the white f- and h-pawns to draw.

**31...Qe6 32.Qd3**

With the idea of challenging the Black Qd5 with Qb3 or Qc4

**32...Be8 33.Qb3**

The exchange of Queens would permit white to activate the Rh3 with Kg3 and Rh1

**33...Qc8 34.b6 Bf7!?**

[34...Bd7 35.Rg3 Bxh4 36.Rg6 Be7 37.b7 Qb8]

### 35.Qb1

Nicely played. The queen remains active behind the passed pawn, and can transfer quickly to the kingside via g1

### 35...Qc3

An entry square that simply does not hunt after white's next move.

### 36.Bd3

All additional squares are covered.

### 36...Rb8



### 37.Qg1!

The threat is Rg3

### 37...Bc4

Searching for counter-play, but opening up the g6 entry square.

**38.Qg6 Bxd3 39.Rg3!**

with the obvious Qxg7# threat

**39...Bf6**

[39...Bf8 40.cxd3 Qe1 (40...Qxd3 41.Bxh6+-) 41.Bxh6 Qf2+ 42.Kh3 Qf1+ 43.Kg4 Qf2 44.Bg5 Qxb6 45.h5+-]

**40.cxd3**

[40.Bxh6! Rb7 41.cxd3 Qb2+ 42.Kh3 Qxb6 43.Bg5]

**40...Rxb6**

[40...Qe1 41.Bxh6 Qf2+ 42.Kh3 Qf1+ 43.Kg4+-]

**41.Bxb6 Qb2+ 42.Rg2 Qxb6 43.Rc2 Bd8 44.h5 1-0**

# P.Svidler (2747) - V.Topalov (2735) [B90] GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 18.01.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3

The English attack has been often used in this event

8...Nbd7 9.g4 Nb6 10.g5 Nh5 11.Qd2 Be7 12.O-O-O O-O 13.Rg1 Rc8 14.Qf2



This variation became very popular last year. The line is full of subtleties and transpositions so typical of the Sicilian Defense. For example White could have either played Kb1 instead of Rg1 or made both these moves. In this case the Black pawn advances to g6. Numerous games have unfolded according to the following scenario: Black plays Nc4; after the exchange on c4, White in his turn sends his knight to d5; after another exchange Black carries out f7-f5. Topalov took a completely different path.

**14...Rxc3!**

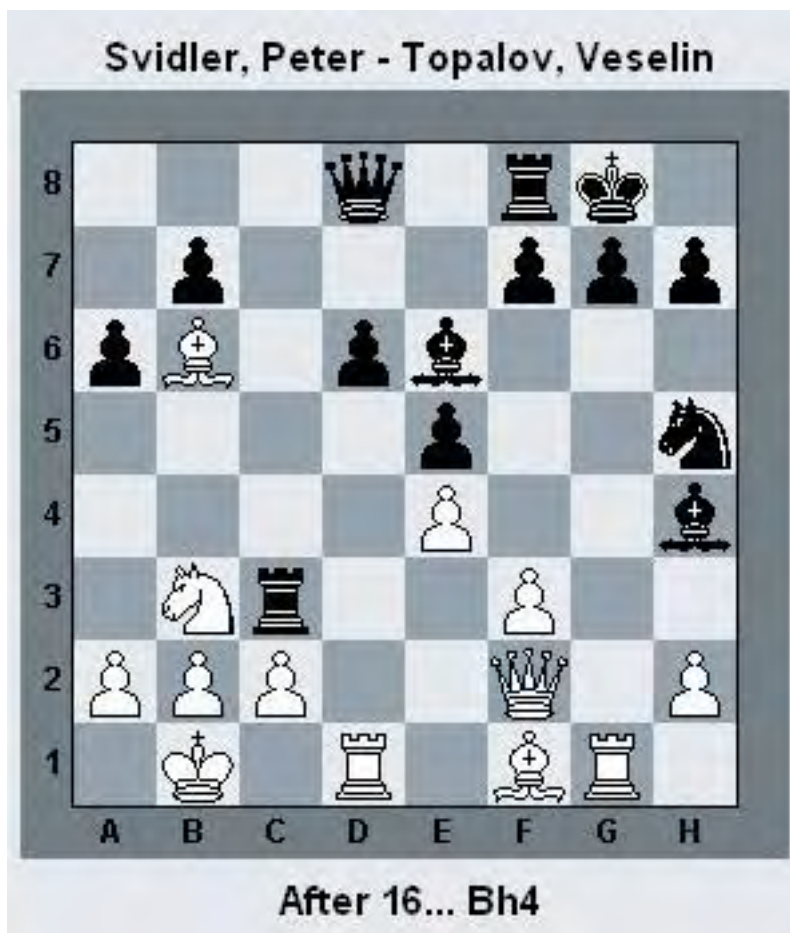
At this point the competition has started. Who will be the first to capture the opponent's rook?

### 15.Bxb6

Apparently on 15.bxc3 Veselin had prepared 15...Na4.

### 15...Bxg5+ 16.Kb1 Bh4!

Although this is the only move, it pleases my eyes anyway. If the Qf2 moves, ...Qxb6



### 17.Rg3!

Black emerges with an extra pawn in the interesting line 17.Bxd8? Bxf2 18.Rg2 (or 18.Rg5 Rxf3 19.Be7 Bh4 20.Bxf8 Bxg5 21.Bxd6 Re3) 18...Rxf3 19.Be2 Nf4 20.Bxf3 Nxe2 21.Be7 Re8 22.Bxd6 Ne3 23.Rd2 Bg1. White could have startled the audience with the "Jesuitical" move 17.Qd4!?. The only problem is that Black can react with an exchange sacrifice - 17...exd4 18.Bxd8 Rxd8 19.bxc3 dxc3 transposing into a very attractive position.

### 17...Bxg3 18.hxg3 Rc7 19.Nc5!

Black gets an extra pawn, but not for free.

**19...Qe7 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxc7 Qxc7 22.Bh3**



Both opponents have made the best moves and arrived at this problem position. Black has an extra pawn, (the backward e6-pawn ) but his knight is inferior to White's bishop. Besides, Svidler will relentlessly attack Topalov's pawn center.

**22...Re8 23.Rd3 Nf6 24.Qa7**

A real entry square and with the threat of Rc3

**24...Kf7**

Black should have reserved this square for his queen. Actually, the idea of giving the most powerful piece more room deserved a closer look - 24...d5!? 25.Rb3 (25.Rc3 Qf7 followed by Qg6 or Qh5 ) 25...Re7 26.Rc3 Qd6

**25.Rc3 Qd7 26.Qb6 Re7**

Can you believe that the black rook will remain on e7 till the end of the game and cause Veselin's defeat?

**27.Rd3 d5 28.exd5 Nxd5**

Black wishes he could capture with the pawn.

**29.Qc5 Qb5 30.Qd6 Nb4 31.Rd2**

White should be careful. On 31.Rd1? Black has the strong rejoinder 31...Qc4 with a double attack.

**31...Qc4 32.b3 Qc3**



**33.f4**

Black is up a pawn, but his king remains badly exposed. f4 opens up the f-file for operations by the rook.

**33...Qxg3**



The continuation 33...e4! would have been more unpleasant for White. In this case the f-file is kept closed. If White insists on 34.f5?!, then he should be prepared for 34...exf5 35.Bxf5 Nd3! continuing down an exchange. The point is that the attempt 36.Qd5+ Kf8 37.Qd8+ Re8 38.Qd6+ Kg8 39.Bxh7+ fails to 39...Kh8! 40.cxd3 Rc8! and Black wins on the spot.

**34.Qxb4 Qxh3 35.fxe5**

Black's extra pawn can't be converted with the queens on the board. The fact that Peter even managed to win this position can be explained only by Veselin's lapse of vigilance.

**35...Qe3**

[35...Qh1+ 36.Kb2 Qc6]

**36.Qd6 h5?! 37.Rd1**

With the idea of Rf1+

**37...Qf2**

After 37...Qf3 White would have had a harder time delivering any check.

**38.Qd3! Qg2 39.Rf1+ Kg8?**

The correct move 39...Ke8 is hard to find even using the method of exclusion. It is difficult to figure out why the retreat to g8 is so bad. The decisive maneuver by White, which includes several only moves, is very elegant.

**40.Qd8+ Kh7**

## Svidler, Peter - Topalov, Veselin



### 41.Rf8

[41.Qxe7? Qxf1+ 42.Kb2 Qf5-+]. Black is unable to protect his e7-rook, which has no squares to move to

### 41...Qg1+

[41...Qg5 42.Qd3+ g6 (42...Kh6 43.Rh8#; 42...Qg6 43.Rh8+ Kxh8 44.Qxg6) 43.Qd8+-]

### 42.Kb2 Qg5 43.Qd3+! g6 44.Qd6!

A spectacular position! To cap Black's troubles, his king finds itself under attack. This tangle can't be unraveled.

### 44...Kg7 45.Qb8 Qh6 46.Qd8!

Despite Topalov's loss, his novelty may force White to find a more accurate move order in this fashionable variation. [46.Qd8 Qh7 (46...Qg5 47.Rg8+ Kh7 48.Rh8+ Kg7 49.Qf8#) 47.Qxe7+]

1-0



# Alekseev, E. (2550) - Areshchenko, A. (2470) [B90] Petrov Mem Open, St. Petersburg (4) 2002

Notes by Boris Schipkov

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f3 e5 7. Nb3 h5**  
Slightly strange move.

**8. Be3 Be6**

In the game Yagupov, I - Rashkovsky, N, Anibal op, Linares 2000 Black played 8...Be7  
9. a4 Be6 10. a5 Nbd7 11. Nd5 Nxd5 12. exd5 Bf5 13. Qd2 Rc8 14. c4 Bh4+ 15. g3 Bf6  
16. Be2 e4 17. f4 Bh3 18. Kf2 g6 19. Rac1 O-O with complicated play.



**9. Nd5**

A novelty. The alternative is 9. Qd2 Be7 10. O-O-O Nbd7, Siroky, J - Djubek, B, TCh-SVK 2001.

**9...Bxd5 10. exd5 Nbd7 11. Qd2 Qc7 12. Na5**

Interesting is 12. c4.

**12...b6! 13. Nb3**

Weaker is 13. Nc6? Nxd5! 14. Qxd5 Nf6 15. Qd2 (15. Qc4 b5) 15... Qxc6 with an extra pawn.

**13...g6 14. Be2 Qb7 15. Rd1**

Deserving attention is 15. c4.

**15...Bg7 16. O-O O-O 17. f4 exf4 18. Bxf4 Rfe8 19. c4**

If 19. c3 then 19...Ne4 20. Qd3 Ndc5 21. Qf3 f5 with equality.

**19...Ne4 20. Qc2?!**

Better is 20. Qc1 b5 21. Be3 bxc4 22. Bxc4.

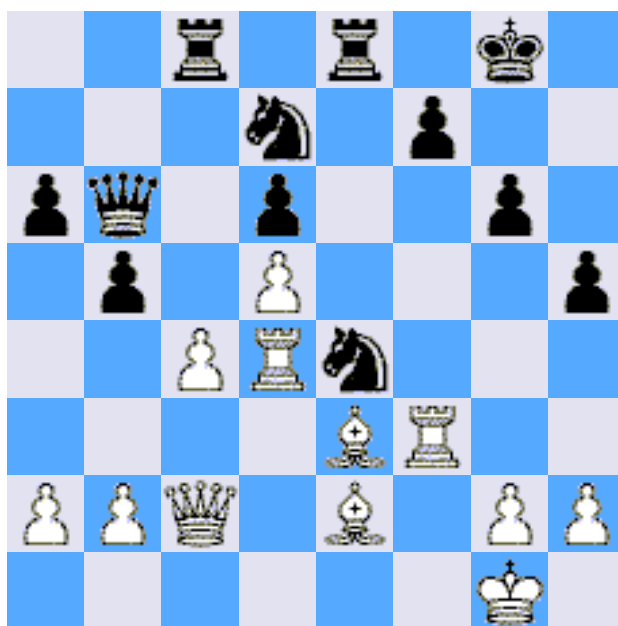
**20...b5!**

Seizing the initiative.

**21. Rf3 Rac8 22. Nd4 Bxd4+**

Also possible is 22... bxc4 23. Nc6 Qxb2 24. Qxb2 Bxb2 25. Bxc4 Ndc5 with an extra pawn.

**23. Rxd4 Qb6 24. Be3**



**24...Ng5?**

The decisive mistake. Correct is 24... Ng3! 25. Rxc3 (25. Rxf7 Nxe2+) 25... Rxe3 26. Rxe3 Qxd4 27. Qc3 Qa7 28. Kf1 Ne5 with a small edge to Black.

**25. Rxf7!!**

A nice rook sacrifice.

**25...Nxf7**

If 25... Kxf7 then 26. Rf4+. Also hopeless is 25... Ne5 26. Rf6 Kg7 27. Bxh5! gxh5 28. Qf5.

**26. Qxg6+ Kf8 27. Bxh5**

White has a formidable attack.

**27...Nde5 28. Qf6 Re7 29. Bxf7 Nxf7 30. Qxe7+ Kxe7 31. Re4+ Ne5 32. Bxb6 bxc4 33. Bd4 Kf6 34. Re3 Kf5 35. Bxe5 dxe5 36. Re1 Rb8 37. Re2 e4 38. Kf2 Kf4 39. g3+ Ke5 40. Rd2 Kd6 41. Ke3 Re8 42. Kd4 Re5 43. Kxc4 e3 44. Re2 Rxd5 45. Rxe3**

**Black resigned. 1-0**

## SICILIAN DEFENSE , NAJDORF VARIATION

*We analyzed a newness of recent Shirov played in the Skillful one of Linares, that surely it will have to be proven in the future.*

### **Grischuk, A (2663) - Shirov, A (2718) [ B90 ] Linares ESP (9), 05.03.2001**

Shirov raises in the game against Grischuk, in round 9 of the Skillful one of Linares 2001, a theoretical newness in the Siciliana Najdorf, in the play 9, something quite difficult to obtain. The newness has more merit considering that gives a pawn and opens the center with the king without enrocar. Shirov ended up losing the game, but the newness seems to leave to the blacks better.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 Qb6 7.Nb3 e6 8.g4**

Grischuk seems not to want to repeat its bad experience with 8.Qe2, against Kasparov

**8... Nc6 9.Qe2 d5**



#### THEORETICAL NEWNESS

In this position the following thing had gambled, almost always with advantage for the target:

**A)** 9... Be7 10.h4 Qc7 11.Be3 b5 12,0-0-0 Bb7 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.g5 Nd7 15.Qf2 Nce5 16. Nd4 Nc4 17.Bh3 b4 18.Nce2 Nc5 19.Bc1 0-0 20.h5 Qb6 21.b3 Na3+ 22.Bxa3 bxa3 23.

h6 g6 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Bxe6+ Rf7 26.Qd4 Bf8 27.Bxf7+ Kxf7 28.Qh8 Ke8 29.Qxh7 d5  
30.Qg8 Ne6 31.Qxg6+ Kd7 32.exd5 1-0 Iruzubieta Villaluenga, J-Gomez Esteban, J/  
Euskadi 1995/EXT 97 (32);

**B)** 9... h6 10.Be3 Qc7 11,0-0-0 b5 12.Kb1 Ne5 13.Qf2 b4 14.Na4 Rb8 15.Rg1 Bb7 16.  
Bb6 Qc6 17.Ba7 Ra8 18.Na5 Qxa4 19.Nxb7 Qd7 20.Qb6 Be7 21.f4 Nc6 22.Nc5 Qxa7 23.  
Qxc6+ Kf8 24.g5 Nh5 25.Nd7+ Kg8 26.g6 Nxf4 27.Bc4 Nxg6 28.Bxe6 fxe6 29.Rxg6 Rd8  
30.Rxe6 Qxd7 31.Qd5 Kh7 32.Qf5+ Kg8 33.Qd5 Kf8 34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.Qd5 ½ - ½  
Arizmendi Martinez, J-Gershon, A/Bermuda 1999/CBM 69 (35);

**C)** 9... Qc7 10.Be3 b5 11,0-0-0 (11.g5 Nd7 12.Qg2 Nb6 13.h4 b4 14.Nd1 Ne5 15.Bd4  
Bb7 16.Na5 Rc8 17.Nxb7 Qxb7 18.Rh3 Nc6 19.Bg1 g6 20.a3 b3 21.cxb3 Bg7 22.Qe2  
Ra8 23.f4 0-0 24.Rd3 f6 25.Rc1 Nc8 26.Bh3 fxg5 27.Bxe6+ Kh8 28.Rxc6 gxf4 29.Rdc3  
Qe7 30.Qg4 1-0 Yagupov, I-Selin, O/Tula 2000/EXT 2001 (30) ) 11... Be7 12.Kb1 Nd7  
13.Qf2 Bb7 14.g5 Rc8 15.Rg1 0-0 16.h4 b4 17.Na4 Nce5 18.Nb6 Nxb6 19.Bxb6 Qb8 20.  
Bh3 Nc4 21.Ba7 Qc7 22.h5 a5 23.g6 Bf6 24.Bd4 e5 25.gxf7+ Kxf7 26.Bxc8 Rxc8 27.  
Ba7 a4 28.Nc1 d5 29.Nd3 d4 30.Bc5 Ne3 31.Bxb4 Qb6 32.Rc1 Ba6 33.Qd2 Qb5 34.a3  
Kg8 35.Nf2 h6 36.Rg6 Qe2 37.Ng4 Nxg4 38.Rxg4 Qxf3 39.Rcg1 Kf7 40.Qe1 Be2 41.  
R4g2 d3 Bxd3+ 43.Ka1 Rc2 44.Rxc2 Bxc2 45.Qd2 Qxe4 46.Qd7+ Kg8 47.Be7 Qe3 48.  
Qc8+ Kf7 49.Bc5 Qd3 50.Rc1 Bb3 51.Qf8+ 1-0 Leko, P-Topalov, V/Batumi 1999/CBM  
74 (51)

## 10.Be3

Acceptar that pawn can take to a difficult position, as it shows the analysis of Fritz,  
especially considering that Shirov moves far better in the tactical complications that its  
rival solid. It seems that this newness within the Siciliana Defense can give much that  
to speak and will be necessary to hope that more actually it gambles skillful to be able  
to give a definitive valuation. At the moment, it seems interesting and strange an idea  
that such newness in play 9 in lines so analyzed and played [ can be given Fritz 6: 10.  
exd5 Nb4 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.Bg5 Rd8 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Bg2 A) Fritz 6: 14... Bh6 15.Rd1  
( Fritz 6: 15.Kf1) 15... Rxd1+ 16.Qxd1 0-0 17.Qe2 Qe3 18.Kf1 Qxe2+ 19.Nxe2 Nxc2;  
B) 14... Bh6; Fritz 6: 10.g5 d4 11.gxf6 dxc3 12.bxc3 gxf6 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Rd1 b5 ]

## 10... d4

the blacks have, like minimum equality, and that pawn in d4 can bother

## 11.Bf2 Bc5

Fritz gave enough like better the following options, although it is clear that Shirov is not  
a machine [ Fritz 6: 11... Qd8 12.Rd1 e5 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Bb4+ 15.c3 dxc3 16.  
dxc6; Fritz 6: 11... e5 12.g5 Qc7 13.gxf6 dxc3 14.bxc3 gxf6 15.Rg1 f5 16.Rd1 ]

## 12.a3 safer Qc7 13.0-0-0

Parece the following thing: [ Fritz 6: 13.Nxc5 dxc3 14.bxc3 e5 15.g5 Nd7 16.Rb1 b5 17.Rd1 0-0; Fritz 6: 13.Nb5 axb5 14.Nxc5 b4 15.Bg3 e5 16.g5 bxa3 17.gxf6 Qa5+ ]

## 13... Bxa3 14.bxa3 dxc3



The blacks have advantage, although it is possible that Grischuk has not chosen by best

## 15.Bc5 e5 16.Qe3 Nd4 17.g5 Nh5 18.Qxc3 Nxb3+ 19.cxb3 Be6 20.Kb2 Rc8 21.Bb4 Qxc3+

With the change of queens, Shirov loses the advantage. Now the exposed situation of the white king will not be important, and the horse in the edge of the board and the tower in h8 at the moment does not play. The best thing had been 21... Nf4, making enter game immediately the horse and to leave they were the white that they changed queens, with which had gained two time: one to activate the horse and another one because the Blacks had to play Bc3 later, thing who now obtain without wasting time, when retaking the queen

## 22.Bxc3





**22... f6 23.gxf6 gxf6 24.Rd6 Nf4 25.Bd2**

the white already are better Here, fruit only of plays logics

**25... Kf7 26.Bxf4 exf4**

Grischuk has eliminated that annoying horse and of step

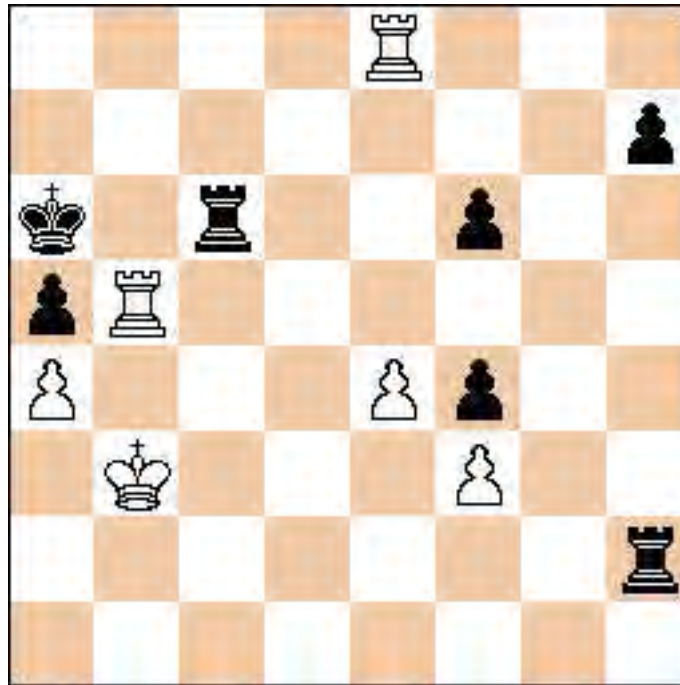
**27.Bc4**

has spoiled the structure of pawns of the black [ 27.Rxe6 Kxe6 28.Bh3+ Ke7 29.Bxc8 Rxc8 ]

**27... Bxc4 28.bxc4 Rxc4 29.Rd7+ Ke6 30.Rhd1 Rc6 31.Rxb7 Rg8 32.Rdd7 Rg2+ 33.Kb3 Rxh2**

[ 33... Rf2 is an alternative to consider 34.Rxh7 (34.Re7+ Kd6 35.Rbd7+ Kc5 36.Rd3 Rxh2 37.Rd5+ Kb6 38.a4 a5 39.Rb5+ Ka6 and is arrived at the position that later occurred in the game 40.Re8) 34... Rxf3+ the blacks have advantage ]

**34.Re7+ Kd6 35.Rbd7+ Kc5 36.Rd5+ Kb6 To 37.a4 a5 38.Rb5+ Ka6 39.Re8**



Ingenious maneuver of Grischuk that in the end supposed the triumph to him, surely by some (s) imprecisión of Shirov in the end. Although the white have advantage, 41.Rb8+ Kxb8 does not seem sufficient to prevail in a end of these characteristics

**39... Rb6 40.Ra8+ Kb7 42.Rxb6+ Kc7 43.Rxf6 h5 44.Rxf4 h4 45.Kc4 h3 46.Rh4 Rh1 47.Kd5 h2 48.Ke5 Rf1 49.Rxh2 Rxf3 50.Rc2+ Kb6 51.Rc4 1-0**

## 6.Bc4 Variation

**GM Gilberto Milos (2620)**

**GM Judit Polgar (2658)**

**Sicilian Najdorf, Fischer Variation B87**

**Japfa Classic Bali INA (9), 02.05.2000**

The Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defense with 6.Bc4 and 7.Bb3, very popularized by Bobby Fischer, still has today some Great Teachers of the elite who practice it. In the recent match of Bali (Japfa Classic), the Brazilian Milos decided to use it to fight as opposed to by the first position the Hungarian Judit Polgar. **Nevertheless, Milos fallò at the time of choosing the variation, deciding on two passive plays (12.f3 and 13.Rfd1), that took it to one position with few perspective. Judit made an interesting newness (12... Nc5), that it deserves one more a deeper investigation** . Soon it assumed the initiative and it gained a pawn, refuting clearly the white scheme. **Instead of 12.f3 I recommend 12.Rfe1** .

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9. Qf3 Qb6**

Interesting was the following game: 9... Qc7 10.Qg3 0-0 11.Bh6 Ne8 12.Rad1 Bd7 13. Nce2 Kh8 14.Bg5 Bxg5 15.Qxg5 complex Nf6 16.Ng3, Lautier, J-Gelfand, B/Las Fertile valleys the USA 1999

**10.Be3**

[ Or 10.Bg5

**A)** 10... 0-0 11.Rad1 b4 12.Na4 Qb7 13.Rfe1 Nbd7 (13... Re8 14.c3 a5 15.Bc2 Nbd7 16. Qg3 Bf8 17.f4÷ Reinderman, D-Bosboom, M/Hoogeveen NED 1999 ) 14.Qg3 Re8 15.f3 Kh8 16.Kh1 h6 17.Bc1 Nf8÷ Reinderman, D-Danailov, S/Wijk aan Zee 2000/The Week in Chess 272;

**B)** 10... Nbd7 To enormous tactical complications lead 11.Rad1 Qb7 12.Rfe1 0-0 13. Qg3 Kh8 14.Re3 b4 15.Nce2 Nxe4 16.Rxe4 Bxg5 17.Rxe6 Nc5 18.Bd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd6 Ne4 20.Rxd5 Nxc3 21.Rxc3 Nxe2+ 22.Nxe2 Be6 23.Ra5 Rfd8 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.f3 g6

**10...Qb7 11.Qg3 Nbd7?**



One position very controverted for theory, in which the white tried very diverse ways, some positional and other tactical ones. Let us see: [ a recent example is 11... 0-0 12. Bh6 Ne8 13.Rad1 Kh8 14.Bc1 Nf6 15.f3 Nc6 16.Nxc6 complex Qxc6 17.Ne2, Van der Wiel, J-Van den Doel, E/Wijk aan Zee NED 1999; Dangerous b4 is 11... 12.Na4 Nbd7 13. f3 0-0 14.Rad1 Ne5 15.Nb6 Nh5 16.Qh3 Nf4 17.Bxf4 complex Qxb6, Dgebuadze, A-Van Beers, E/Antwerp BEL 1999; The recommended one by the theory is 11... Nc6 To a tremendo interchange of tactical blows arrived after 12.Rae1 Na5 13.Nf5? Nxb3 14.e5 exf5 15.Qxg7 Be6 16.exf6 Kd7 17.Bh6 Rae8 18.Rxe6 fxe6 19.f7 Ref8 20.cxb3 ' Alvarez, R-Willms, H/cr World Cup 1994 ]

**12.f3?**

In the most solid appearance, but with her it is not possible to try an attack on the K. Veamos the numerous alternatives. [ If 12.Qxg7 Rg8 13.Qh6 Rg6 14.Qh3 Nxe4 "; 12. Rfe1 Nc5 13.Nf5 Nxb3 14.Nxe7 Nxa1 15.Qxg7 Rf8 16.e5 Nxc2 17.Bh6 Nxe1 18.Qxf8+ Kd7 19.Ned5! Nxd5 20.Qxd6+ variation Ke8 21.Qf8+ = indicated by the Yugoslav Encyclopedia Volume B á. edition, page 485/114. (Analysis of Kiril Georgiev); 12.Rae1 b4 13.Nd5 exd5 14.Nf5 Ne5 15.f4 Ng6 16.Nxg7+ Kf8 17.Bd4 dxe4µ Yurtaev - Novikov, Tallinn 1987, Inf. 43/(307), mentioned, página ECHO B 485/109.; 12.f4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Qxe4 14.Rae1 Bb7 15.f5 Bh4 16.Qh3 Bxe1 17.fxe6 0-0! Golubev - Kruppa, Kiev 1995, Inf. 65/(238), and now 18.e7? Qxe7 19.Nf5 Qe4 20.Nxd6 Qxg2+ 21.Qxg2 Bxg2 22. Kxg2 Bb4 23.Nxf7 Nf6 = analysis of Golubev in the mentioned ECHO, page 485/109.; 12.Nf5 exf5 13.Qxg7 Rf8 14.Nd5! Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Qb8 16.Rae1 Bb7 Azmaiparashvili - Novikov, USSR 1986, Inf. 41/275, and now 17.Bh6! f4 18.Bxf4 Ne5 19.Qxh7÷ according to Azmaiparashvili in the ECHO, page 485/109. ]

## 12...Nc5!?N



A remarkable idea, which I believe, should be properly credited to the recently deceased GM Lev Polugaevsky. Black's idea is that after the capture of the g7-pawn, Black will use the time that White needs to extricate his Queen to complete his development and to utilize the half open g-file for an attack. Thus: 13.Qxg7 Rg8 14.Qh6 Rg6 15.Qh3 Bd7, when Black tries to combine a doubling on the g-file with a center break based on ...d6-d5 and ...e6-e5 ideas. While I'm a bit skeptical of Black's compensation, I certainly accept that it exists.

The decision to capture or not capture the pawn didn't sit to well with Gilberto. His approach to the game was to play the opening to, "keep the advantage" and if the opportunity appeared to play for the win. Thus he didn't give the capture too much thought at all. Besides, he was quite familiar with White's piece arrangement and confident that his game choice leads to a White pull.

In this line the critical square of the black side is e6, and for that reason the B remains in c8. In addition, frequently the blacks must support to dangerous sacrifices in d5 and f5. The play of the text defends e6 once again, and simultaneously it attacks the Bb3. [aggressor knew 12... 0-0 According to the ECHO, this position is complex (Moisseiev, Inf. 44/(292). 13.Nd5? (13.Bh6? Nh5 14.Qh3 gxh6 15.Qxh5 Qb6 with clear advantage of the blacks, Anderson, R-Byrne, R/Philadelphia 1990/EXT 97 ) 13... Bd8 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Rad1 (15.Qxd6 Be5 16.Qe7 Bf6 17.Qa3 a5? 18.Nxe6 b4 19.Qa4 complex Nb6, Morgado ) 15... Rd8! 16.Nxe6! fxe6 17.Bxe6+ Kh8 18.Bd5± Nikolenko, O-Nagy, 17 Z/ Budapest 1990/CBM ext ]

## 13.Rfd1!?



Very passive. [ a line that puts the new play on approval is 13.Nf5! but the blacks seem to emerge with unique advantage after 13... exf5 14.Qxg7 Rf8

**A)** 15.Bd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 (16.exd5 b4 17.Rae1 bxc3 18.Bg5 Ne6 19.dxe6 fxe6) 16... fxe4 17.fxe4 (17.Rad1 Be6 18.Nxe7 Qxe7 19.b4 Nd7 20.fxe4) 17... Nxe4 (17... Be6 18.Nxe7 Kxe7 19.e5 Rg8 20.exd6+) 18.Nxe7 Qxe7 (18... Kxe7) 19.Bh6 (19.Qxh7 d5 black advantage) 19... Bb7 20.Qxf8+ Qxf8 21.Bxf8 Kxf8 black advantage;

**B)** 15.Bxc5 15... dxc5 and the blacks conserves the advantage. The following analyses are of GM ICCF Robert Alvarez.

**B1)** 16.Nd5

**B1a)** 16... fxe4 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Qxf6 c4 19.Bxc4 bxc4 20.Rae1 Qa7+ 21.Kh1 Be6 22.Rxe4 Qe7; **B1b)** 16... c4 17.Bxc4

**B1b1)** 17... Nxe4! 18.fxe4 (18.Bb3 Nd2 19.Rfe1 Be6 20.Nxe7 Nxb3 21.cxb3 Qxe7 22.Qxh7 Qf6 black advantage) 18... bxc4 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 20.exf5? complex;

**B1b2)** 17... bxc4 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Qxf6 fxe4 20.Rae1 Be6 21.Rxe4 Qe7 black advantage;

**Bç)** 16... Ng8

**Bç1)** 17.c4 fxe4 (17... Be6 18.cxb5) 18.fxe4 Be6 19.a4 b4 20.a5 0-0-0 21.Qxh7;

**Bç2)** 17.Qe5

**Bç21)** 17... Ra7 18.c4 (18.c3 f6 19.Qf4 c4 20.Bc2 Bc5+ 21.Kh1 fxe4 22.Qxe4+ Ne7 23.Rae1 f5) 18... f6 19.Qf4 fxe4 20.Qxe4 (20.Rae1 exf3 21.Rxf3 Qc6 22.Rfe3 Kd8) 20... Kd8 21.Rad1;

**Bç22)** 17... c4 18.Nc7+ Kd8 19.Nxa8 (19.Rfd1+ Bd7 20.Nxa8 Qxa8 21.Qxf5 Qa7+ 22.Kh1) 19... Qxa8 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.Rad1+ Bd7 22.Qxf5 black advantage;

**B2)** 16.Bd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 (17.Nxd5 fxe4 18.fxe4 Be6) 17... Qb6 (17... b4 18.Rae1 Qd7 19.Qf6 Kd8 20.Rxe7 Qxe7 21.Qb6+ Ke8 22.Qc6+) 18.Rae1 Qd6;

**B3)** 16.e5 16... c4 (16... Nh5 17.Qxh7 c4 18.Qxh5 cxb3 19.cxb3 Bc5+ 20.Kh1÷) 17.exf6 Bá) 17... Bc5+! 18.Kh1 Be6 19.Rad1 cxb3 20.cxb3=+ (20.axb3=+) ;

**B3b)** 17... Qb6+! 18.Kh1 Qxf6 19.Qxf6 (19.Qg3 f4 20.Qf2 Qc6) 19... Bxf6 20.Nd5 Bd8 21.Rae1+ Be6 22.Bxc4 bxc4 23.Nf4 Ke7-+;

Probably best white them era to accept the challenge by means of 13.Qxg7? Rg8 14.

Qh6

**A)** 14... Nxb3! 15.cxb3 b4 16.Na4 e5 17.Nc2 Rg6 (17... d5) 18.Qh4 d5? complex;

**B)** 14... e5? 15.Bd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 exd4 17.Qxh7 Rg6 (17... complex Rxc2+ 18.Kxc2 dxe3) 18.Bxd4 with attack;

**C)** 14... Rg6

**C1)** 15.Qh4 Ng4 (15... b4 16.Nd1 Nfxe4 17.Qxh7 Nf6÷) 16.Qe1 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 with initiative;

**C2)** 15.Qh3 15... Bd7 16.a4 b4 17.Nce2+ =; Deserves consideration 13.Rad1? without still entering interchanges of blows. ]

**Bd7!?**

I bring attention to the last two moves, as they were fraught with tension with the audience in a state of acute distress. How could Black be gambling away a key pawn on the Kingside in a last round game for first place?

**14.Kh1**

[ If 14.Qxg7 Rg8 15.Qh6 b4 and is not pleasant to retire with the N to b1. 16.Nb1 e5 (16... Ncxe4! 17.fxe4 unique Qxe4 18.Qh3 e5 19.Qf3 exd4 20.Qxe4 Nxe4 21.Rxd4±) 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Bxc5 Rg6 19.Qe3 Bh3 with attack ]

**14...b4 15.Nce2 0-0**

It completes the development and it holds a comfortable initiative. Now one sees that the Ra1 does not have good perspective, since its natural square was occupied by the other R.

**16.Bh6**

The white do not have great perspective to mount a successful attack, since they do not count on sufficient material for it. [ Merecia consideration 16.c3? ]

**16...Ne8 17.c4?**



Remarkably enough a blunder, which costs, White a pawn. Gilberto was so anxious to make the piece set up with Rooks doubled on the d-file and a c2-pawn on the c4-square that he played the text without realizing its consequences. After 17.Rd2 (Covering the b2-pawn.) a5!? 18.c4, White is moving towards the position that he wanted. [ Better era 17.Bg5? f6? 18.Be3 ]

**17...bxc3 18.Nxc3 Bf6!**

Now the difference is clear, the b3-Bishop can't move without pitching the b2-pawn. The frightful realization of what he had done hit Gilberto squarely between the eyes and he now determined to buckle down and to save the position. He is helped by the fact that Black's position is quite cramped and that it's quite difficult for Judith to make progress.

**19.Bg5!**

[ Something better era 19.Be3 ]

**19...Bxd4! 20.Rxd4 Nxb3 21.axb3 f6**

Judith has to pause to prevent Bg5-e7, which would win the entrapped Rook.

**22.Bd2!**





Seizing the defensive. White intends to put his Bishop on the c3-square. Route his Knight to the e3-square and double Rooks on the d-file, when his position is nearly impregnable. If 22.Bh6 simply 22... Kh8

### **22...Qxb3**

The Blacks have gained a laborer without compensation. Judit leads the rest of the game with energy.

### **23.Nd1 a5!**

Judith finds the only way to make progress. As long as the a-pawn remains on the a6-square, the fortress mentioned above will hold. The text envisions that the a6-pawn is better protected on the a4-square and the by ...a4-a3, White's Queenside is somewhat vulnerable.

### **24.Qe1!**

Not falling for 24.Bxa5?, which will cost material due to the vulnerable f1-square: 24... Rxa5! 25.Rxa5 Qb6 26.Raa4 Bxa4 27.Rxa4 Qb5, is the winning stinger.

### **24...Qb6!**

Judith certainly had good reason to avoid: 24...a4 25.Bb4 (25.Rb4!? Qc2 26.Bc3) when the plan of: 26.Ra3 Qc2 27.Rc3, could chase the Queen into White's clutches.

### **25.Rd3 a4 26.Bb4!**



Since pitching the pawn, Gilberto has repaired his position mightily and was beginning to feel things weren't all that bad. Even going so far as considering Rd3-a3, intending Nd1-c3 clipping the a-pawn. Eventually he decided to baton down the hatches by playing Nd1-e3, Ra1-d1, Qe1-d2 and Bb4-a3, when, "I can't possibly lose!" From Judith's perspective, this was quite true. Since winning the pawn, it has been very hard for her to increase the scope of her pieces and she now makes it a priority.

**26...Rf7! 27.Qd2?!**

The text creates an unintended tactical danger by limiting the number of squares to which the d3-Rook might move. I've no clue how Black might crack the position after 27. Ne3 Bb5 28.Rd2, when White is ready double Rooks on the d-file and play Bb4-a3 keeping the Queenside clogged up.

**27...Bb5 28.Rd4 e5!**

Of course this was the move that Gilberto had hoped to induce. He now realized that his Rook is fortunate to have the a5-escape square.

**29.Rd5 Rb7! 30.Bc3**

Capturing the d6-pawn by: 30.Bxd6? Bc6 31.Bc5 Qa5, would cost White material. The text places the Bishop on the wrong diagonal but 31.Ba3? Bc4 would cost the exchange as the Rook is trapped.

**30...Bc6?!**

I'm not to sure what Judith had in mind by the text. My inclination would be to play: 30... Bc4 31.Ra5 Rxa5 32.Bxa5 Qb5 33.Ne3 Be6 34.Bc3, when its hard to see how exactly

Black is supposed to expect his extra pawn to carry the day.

### 31.Rd3 Qa6?!

A little drifting here by Judith as she's wrestling with the opportunity of repeating the position while trying to find the best way of playing for a win.

### 32.Ne3 Bb5 33.Rd5 Qb6



Black's aimless play had by this time calmed Gilberto down and he was no longer fearful of the loss. Black's extra pawn, the d6-pawn is firmly blockaded and the question for him became should he try to just "keep" the position or should he force the draw? Unfortunately for him he made a fateful decision.

### 34.Nf5?!

The start of a mistaken tactical operation. How would Black make progress after 34.h3!, making luft?

### 34...Ra6 35.Rd1??

In a word, the "howler." Gilberto was blithely unaware of the back rank issues and his mild time trouble encouraged his decision.

### 35...Bc4! 36.Nxd6 Nxd6 37.Rxd6 Qxd6 38.Qxd6 Rxd6 39.Rxd6



**39...a3!**

That one hurts, as the breakthrough is immediately decisive.

**40.b4 Rc7 41.Kg1 Bb5 42.Bd2 a2 43.Rd8+ Kf7 44.Ra8 Rc2**

[ 44... Rc2 45.Be3 Rb2 ]

**0-1**

**White: Nigel Short**  
**Black: Garry Kasparov**  
**Najdorf Sicilian (B87) London**  
**Wch-m (16), 1993**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 b5 8 O–O Be7 9 Qf3 Qc7 10 Qg3 Nc6 11 Nxc6 Qxc6 12 Re1 Bb7 13 a3 Rd8 14 f3

Not 14 Qxg7? Rg8.

14...O–O 15 Bh6 Ne8 16 Kh1 Kh8



17 Bg5

This weakens the black d-pawn by exchanging its best defender.

17...Bxg5 18 Qxg5 Nf6 19 Rad1 Rd7 20 Rd3 Rfd8 21 Red1 Qc5 22 Qe3 Kg8 23 Kg1 Kf8

23...Qxe3+ 24 Rxe3 d5 25 exd5 Nxd5 26 Red3 Nf6=.

24 Qf2 Ba8 25 Ne2 g6?

Kasparov refuses the Queen exchange once too often. 25...Qxf2+ 26 Kxf2 Ke7=.

26 Nd4 Qe5

Now if Black tries for a queen swap by 26...e5 27 Rc3 Qa7 (27...Qb6?? 28 Ne6+ and wins) he is punished by 28 Nc6 Qxf2+ 29 Kxf2 Rc8 (29...Bxc6 30 Rxc6±) 30 Nxe5!.

27 Re1 g5



Black makes a risky bid for counterplay. 27...Kg8 was better but White will play 28 c3 and Bc2.

**28 c3 Kg7 29 Bc2 Rg8 30 Nb3 Kf8 31 Rd4 Ke7 32 a4! h5 33 axb5 axb5 34 Rb4**

34 h4 was also good, to meet 34...gxh4 by 35 f4+-.

**34...h4 35 Nd4 g4**

35...Rb8 36 Ba4!+-.

**36 Rxb5 d5**



If 36...Qxh2+ 37 Kxh2 g3+ 38 Kg1 gxf2+ 39 Kxf2±.

### **37 Qxh4**

Threatens 38 Nf5+ and if 38...exf5 39 exf5 pinning Q on K.

### **37...Qh5**

37...gxf3 stops that threat but allows a different finish 38 exd5! (38 Nf5+? exf5 39 exf5 Rxc2+ 40 Kf1 Re2-+) 38...Rxc2+ 39 Kf1 Qxh2 (39...Rxc2 40 Nf5+ Qxf5 41 Qb4+ and wins) 40 Nf5+ Kf8 41 Qxh2 Rxc2 42 Rb8+ Ne8 43 Ba4+-

**38 Nf5+ exf5 39 exf5+ Kf8 40 Qxf6+- 1-0**

# Fischer, Bobby - Sherwin, James US Championship 1956

1. e4 c5

Bobby Fischer was only 14 years old when he played this game in the US Championship

2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. O-O b5 8. Bb3 b4 9. Nb1 Bd7 10. Be3 Nc6 11. f3 Be7 12. c3 bxc3 13. Nxc6 Bxc6 14. Nxc3 O-O 15. Rc1 Qb8 16. Nd5 exd5 17. Rxc6 dxe4 18. fxe4 Qb5 19. Rb6 Qe5 20. Bd4 Qg5 21. Qf3 Nd7 22. Rb7 Ne5 23. Qe2 Bf6 24. Kh1 a5 25. Bd5 Rac8 26. Bc3 a4 27. Ra7 Ng4 28. Rxa4 Bxc3 29. bxc3 Rxc3



This is the critical point in the game, what can white do to continue?

**30. Rxf7!!**

A wonderful move! Upon 30. ... Rf8xf7 will follow 31. Ra4-a8+ with checkmate

**30... Rc1+ 31. Qf1!!**





Again, a wonderful move! In the first place there is the threat 32. Rf7xf8#

A few lines :

A: 31. ... Rc1xf1+ 32. Rf7xf1+ Kg8-h8 33. Rf1-f8#

B: 31. ... Rc1xf1+ 32. Rf7xf1+ Rf8-f7 33. Ra4-a8+ with checkmate.

C: 32. ... Rc1xf1+ 32. Rf7xf1+ Qg5xd5 33. Rf1xf8 Kxf8 34. e4xd5 and white has lost a Rook and Pawn against a Bishop

**31... h5**

After 32. Rf7xf8+ Kg8-h7 the white Queen is lost

**32. Qxc1!!**

Now 32. ... Qg5xc1+ is impossible, because of 33. Rf7-f1+ Kg8-h7 34. Rf1xc1

**32... Qh4 33. Rxf8+ Kh7 34. h3 Qg3 35. hxg4 h4 36. Bc6**

and black resigned

**1-0**

# Cartagena,O (2425) - Browne,W (2535) [B87] San Francisco Capps Memorial San Francisco Mechanics Inst (5), 10.11.1996

Igor Ivanov and Omar Cartagena both scored 4.5/5.0 to tie for first in the 26th Annual Carroll Capps Memorial Chess Championship, held November 8-11, 1996 at the Mechanics Institute in San Francisco. Here is Omar's crucial last-round win over GM Walter Browne.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 b5 7.Bb3 e6**



We have already entered into the highly theoretical Fischer-Sozin Attack, which GM Walter Browne has been specializing in for the past few years. Now, before you run off and look up Gary Lane's monograph on this line, let me tell you that I had already done so, and he does not even mention Omar's 10th move.

## **8.0-0 Be7**

This is a great opportunity for a flashback on a historical moment in Philippine chess. Rodolfo Tan Cardoso played 8...Bb7 against Bobby Fischer in their 1957 New York match. There followed 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Nxe6 Qc8 12.Nxf8 Rxf8 13.Qxd6 Qc6 14.Rad1 Qxd6 15.Rxd6 0-0-0 16.Rfd1 h6 17.Be3 Ne5 with an unclear position, and the game was eventually drawn on the 46th move.

## **9.Qf3 Qc7 10.Bg5**

10.Qg3 and, to a lesser degree, 10.Re1 are the standard moves.

## 10...Nbd7

Black can play the routine developing move 10...0-0, but he must be ready for some tactical fireworks 11.e5!? dxe5 (11...Bb7 12.exf6!? is a nice speculative queen sacrifice) 12.Bxf6 (the object of this move is to deflect the black-squareded bishop from e7, so that White can take the a8-rook. If he does so right now the queen is trapped by ...Bb7 followed by ...Bc5) 12...gxf6 13.Nf5 exf5 14.Qxa8 Bb7 15.Nd5 Qd7 16.Qa7 Bxd5 17.Qxd7 Nxd7 18.Bxd5 Nb6 White is materially ahead but cashing it in would not be so easy /Maus,S-Ftacnik,L/ BL 1989/½-½ (62)

## 11.Rad1 b4 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nce2?!



Omar does not play 13.e5!, which seems like a good idea now. After 13...bxc3 (13...Bb7? 14.Ncb5!) 14.exf6 (14.Qxa8!? dxe5 15.Qc6 Qxc6 16.Nxc6 cxb2 is unclear) 14...Bb7 15.fxc7 Rg8 16.Qg4± White is threatening a sacrifice on e6

## 13...Nc5 14.Ng3 0-0 15.Nh5 Be5 16.Qg4 Nxb3 17.cxb3 Qc5



Black reckons that once White's kingside initiative dies down the two bishops will have the final say. Omar does not agree - watch his knights buckle down to work!

**18.Nf3 g6**

[18...Bxb2? 19.e5! Bxe5 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Rfe1 White has a very dangerous initiative]

**19.Nf4 Bg7 20.Nd3 Qa5 21.e5 dxe5**

[21...Qxa2? is suicidal 22.Qxb4 a5 23.Qc3±]

**22.Qe4 Rb8 23.Nfxe5 Bb7**



[23...Qxa2? **A**) 24.Nc4 is only good for a draw 24...Bb7 (24...Qxb3? 25.Nc5 Qa2 26.Ra1 +-) 25.Qe2 Rfc8 26.Nc1=; **B**) 24.Qc4! 24...Qa5 25.Nc6]

**24.Qf4 Rbd8**

[24...Qxa2? 25.Nd7]

**25.Nc4 Qd5**

Black never could get around to liquidating White's queenside pawns

**26.Ne3 Qb5 27.Nxb4 Bxb2 28.a4 Qe5 29.Qh4 Bd4?**



Too optimistic. He should already go in for the endgame with 29...Qf6.

**30.Nbc2!**

Now Browne realizes the problem - his bishop is pinned against the rook, and if he abandons the long diagonal with ...Bb6 White will start infiltrating the exposed king with Ng4.

**30...g5 31.Qh5 Ba7?**

Still suffering from over-optimism - the e3-knight is too powerful and should have been destroyed. The position after 31...Bxe3 32.Nxe3 (*no good for White is 32.fxe3 Rxd1 33. Rxd1 Bd5*) 32...Qf4 is ok

**32.Ng4 Qf4 33.Rxd8 Rxd8 34.g3 Qd2**



[34...Qf3 35.Qxg5+ Kh8 36.Qxd8+ Kg7 37.Qf6+ +-]

### 35.Qh6 f5

The text move loses without a fight. 35...Bxf2+!? is a good try, and forces White to play accurately 36.Nxf2 (36.Rxf2? Qd1+ 37.Rf1 Qxg4 38.Ne3 Rd2! and Black has at least a draw now) 36...Rd3 37.Ne1 Rxb3 38.Qf6 Rb2 39.Ned3 Qxd3 40.Qxf7+!+-

### 36.Qxe6+ Kf8 37.Qxf5+ Ke7

[37...Kg8 38.Nce3! Qd4 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.Neg4 is the end]

### 38.Qxh7+

Black now resigns since he is going to lose his long diagonal bishop, and with it his last vestiges of counterplay.

1-0

# Mikhail Golubev

## Gergely Szabo

### Sicilian B87

### Bucharest 2001

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 b5 8 O-O Be7 9 Qf3 Qb6 10 Be3 Qb7 11 Qg3



This is a well-known crossroads in the Fischer/Sozin Attack. Black has four popular moves here: 11...Nc6 (illogical); 11...O-O (slightly better for White); 11...Nbd7!? (consequent, but risky) and 11...b4 12 Na4 O-O (solid main line). I spent a lot of time on all this while playing and analysing my previous games and writing the 9 Qf3 chapter for my Sicilian Sozin book. One more option is 11...Bd7?, but here White gets a crushing attack by 12 Nf5! exf5 13 Qxg7 Rf8 14 Bg5!, as Ivanchuk played against Shakhvorostov in the USSR Junior Championship 1985 (in which I also participated). All other Black's moves are virtually untested till now.

#### 11...h5

A surprise. At the board I could remember only that White won a game after 12 Nf5, but hardly anything else. A less ambitious move would be 12 f3, after which Black can either start to disturb the white pieces with pawns (12...h4!? and 13 Qxg7?! Rh7 14 Qg5 Rh5 is a guaranteed draw) or else develop his queenside pieces.

#### 12 Nf5 exf5 13 Qxg7

I spent about half an hour on the last two moves. After 13 e5 dxe5!? 14 Qxg7 Rf8 White has some compensation but I didn't like 15 Rad1 Be6 at all, and 15 Bg5 (where 15...b4!? is possible) didn't attract me either. The final decision was made after I found

an additional idea 16 Rad1!? and 17 Rxd6+ in the game line.

### 13...Rh7!

I expected this, and it is clearly the best move. After the game my database showed that Black had previously played only 13...Rf8?!. Instinct tells me that White should be much better after that; possibly 14 Bg5!? Nxe4 15 Bd5 Nxg5 16 Bxb7 Bxb7 17 Rfe1 Ne6 18 Qh7, Sofia Polgar-Enoshi, Biel 1987, is confirmation of that view.

### 14 Bxf7+ Kd8 15 Qg6 Nbd7



In this critical position Black threatens to win a bishop by 16...Ne5 or 16...Nf8, and White has to do something. 16 Nd5?! Nf8 17 Bb6+ Qxb6 18 Nxb6 Nxg6 19 Bxg6 Rg7 is clearly not good, but 16 Bd5 is probably strongest; Black then has two possibilities. One line is 16...Nxd5 17 Nxd5 (or 17 Qxh7!?) 17...Nf8 18 Bb6+ (18 Qg3 may be of some interest) 18...Qxb6 19 Qxh7 Nxh7 20 Nxb6 Rb8, and White can play 21 Nd5 (rather than 21 Nxc8 Rxc8 22 exf5 Rxc2).

I didn't like 16...Qb8 17 Bxa8 Nf8 (17...Ne5 18 Qg5!) where Black first attacks the white queen and later takes on a8 in the best possible circumstances. Now I think that after 18 Qg5! his initiative is rather temporary. 17 Qxf5!? (instead of 17 Bxa8) deserves attention as well.

### 16 Rad1

After long reflection I chose this move, planning a further queen sacrifice that worked so well in the game. However, 16 Rad1 could possibly cost White a point, at least when playing against a computer.

### 16...Ne5

16...Nf8 17 Rxd6+ with good chances after 17...N6d7 18 Bb6+!? Qxb6 19 Rxd7+



Nxd7 20 Qxh7 or 17...Kc7 18 Qxf6!? Bxf6 19 Rxf6. If 17...Bd7, White can play as in the game.

**17 Rxd6+**



**17...Bd7**

If Black has any natural move here, then this is it. After 17...Bxd6, the forced line 18 Qxf6+ Qe7 19 Bb6+ Kd7 20 Qxf5+ Kc6 21 Qxh7 leaves White with four pawns for a bishop.

However, in the case of 17...Kc7! (king attacks rook!) Black can probably survive his opponent's activity with a good chance of winning: 18 Nd5+ (other moves don't work at all, as far as I can be sure about such a position) 18...Kxd6! (other moves are unconvincing: 18...Nxd5?! 19 Qxh7!? Nxe3 20 Bd5; 18...Qxd5 19 exd5!? Nxc6 20 Rc6+; 18...Kb8 19 Rxf6!? Nxc6 20 Bxc6 Bxf6 21 Bf4+) 19 Bf4 (this was my main hope; 19 Rd1? Nxc6; 19 Nxf6? Rxf7!?) 19...Rxf7! (the only move) 20 Rd1 (20 Qxf7 Nxd5! 21 Bxe5+ Kxe5, and also good is 20...Be6!?)



... and now, incredibly, the cold computer move 20...fxe4!! leaves White with just too few fighters on the board.

In all the lines that I was able to find, White is in big trouble. The main point is that, after 21 Nxf6+ Ke6, White's queen is attacked and he must play 22 Bxe5 where, after 22...Bxf6!? 23 Bxf6 Rxf6 24 Qe8+ Qe7 25 Qc6+ Kf7 26 Qxa8 Rd6, Black has a bishop for two pawns.

### 18 Qxf6!

18 Rxd7+? Qxd7 is hopeless for White; also bad is 18 Bd5?! Qxd5 19 Nxd5 Nxc6 20 Bb6+ Kc8.

### 18...Bxf6

18...Nxf7? 19 Rxd7+! Qxd7 20 Qg6 and White wins.

### 19 Bd5



White has only three pawns for a queen at this juncture. Also, he has no concrete threats against the adversary's king. Nevertheless, compensation is very considerable. I liked all the lines I saw for White in this position, and the most difficult part was to convince myself that I *really* can play without a queen. But... it's only a piece after all.

### 19...Qb8

19...Qc7? is impossible because of 20 Bb6!. After 19...Nc6 White plays 20 Rxf6.

### 20 Rxf6 Rg7

Two good illustrative lines are 20...Ng4 21 Rf8+ Be8 22 Bg5+ Re7 23 Rd1! Qxh2+ 24 Kf1 and 20...Ke7 21 Bg5! Ke8 22 exf5.

### 21 Rf8+ Be8 22 Rd1 Rd7?

Black should play 22...Nd7, but White is already better anyway.

**23 Bg5+ Kc7 24 Bf4 Kd8**

24...Kb6 loses by force after 25 Rf6+ Ka5 26 a3! b4 27 axb4+ Kxb4 28 Rd4+ Kc5 29 Be3.

**25 Bg5+**

The old masters would never understand such a manoeuvre, but they played without a clock...

**25...Kc7 26 Bf4 Kd8 27 Rxf5**



White is winning from now until the end. The game continued in increasingly hectic mutual time-trouble where my main aim was not to let the white pieces come under attack. So it was not easy to find such an aggressive idea as 41 Nd8+, winning a rook...

**27...b4 28 Bxe5 Qa7 29 Ne2 Rc8 30 Nd4 Qb6 31 Rd3 Ke7 32 Bf6+ Qxf6 33 Rxf6 Kxf6 34 f3 Rc5 35 Kf2 Rdc7 36 Ke3 Bf7 37 Bxf7 Kxf7 38 f4 Ra5 39 Rb3 Rb7 40 Nc6 Rxa2 41 Nxb4? Ra4 42 Nc6 Rxb3+ 43 cxb3 Ra2 44 Ne5+ Ke6 45 Nd3 a5 1-0**

Here I reckoned that 40 moves must have been made. My flag fell; we reconstructed the last 15 moves and Black resigned. He could play on, but White has too many pawns for the exchange.

# Quinn - HIARCS5 Match (g1) 1996

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 e6 7 Bb3 b5 8 O-O b4!?



A typical computer move in that it will take material unless it sees a good reason for not doing so. In this particular case we are still in the books though it isn't clear that this was in the HIARCS book. According to theory it isn't very good.

**9 Na4 Nxe4 10 Re1**

The 'book' move, though it interesting to play 10 f4 with the idea of 11 f5, prising open the a2-g8 diagonal.

**10...d5 11 Qf3**



After this White doesn't have enough compensation for his pawn. He should have tried 11 c4 after which 11...bc 12 Nxc3 Nxc3 13 bc Be7 14 Bf4 gives White more than enough for his pawn according to Belyavksy and Mikhalchishin.

**11...Bb7 12 Bf4**

White should still try to undermine Black's central fortifications with 12 c4. As long as the knight sits on e4 it is difficult to see how White can hope to generate a serious initiative.

**12...Bd6 13 Bxd6 Qxd6 14 Rad1 0-0 15 c4**

White finally gets the right idea but rather too late in the day. HIARCS 5 defends itself with no particular difficulty.

**15...bxc3 16 Nxc3 Nxc3 17 Qxc3?!**



It looks better to recapture the pawn in order to undermine the d5 pawn with 18 c4.

**17...Nc6 18 Qh3**

The start of a rather desperate-looking kingside fling.

**18...Nxd4 19 Rxd4 Rac8 20 Rh4 h6 21 Qg4 e5**



Cool defence against the threat of 22 Rxh6.

**22 Qf5 d4 23 f3?! d3**

The emergence of a passed d-pawn like this spells the end for White.

24 Rd1 d2 25 Ba4 Qb6+ 26 Kf1 a5!



Introducing the deadly threat of 27...Ba6+. This is what induces the following weakening move by White which attempts to create some more space for his king.

27 g4 Qe3 28 g5 Bxf3 29 Bb5 Rc1 0:1

# Morozevich (2715) - Ljubojevic (2607) [B86] Amber Rapid, Monaco (7) 2002

Notes by Boris Schipkov

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. Bb3 Nbd7 8. Bg5 Nc5**

Interesting is 8...h6 9. Bh4 Qa5 10. f3 Be7 11. Qe2 Nc5 12. O-O Bd7 13. Rad1 b5 14. e5 dxe5 15. Qxe5 b4 16. Ne4 Nxb3 17. Bxf6 Qxe5 18. Bxe5 Nxd4 19. Rxd4 f6 20. Bd6 a5 21. Rfd1 Bc6 22. Rc4 Rc8 23. Bxe7 Kxe7 24. Nd6 Rc7 25. Rd3 1/2, draw in Ehlvest, J - Tal, M, Skelleftea 1989.

**9. f4 Be7 10. Qf3 Bd7 11. O-O-O O-O 12. Kb1 Rc8 13. h4**



**13...b5?!**

Deserving attention is 13... Qc7!?

**14. e5! Ne8 15. Ne4 Nxb3**

After 15... Nxe4 16. Qxe4 d5 17. Qd3 White has an edge.

**16. axb3 d5**

If 16... f6 then 17. exf6 Nxf6 18. Bxf6 Bxf6 (18... gxf6 19. Qg4+ Kh8 20. Nxe6) 19. Nxd6 Rc7 20. Rhe1 Bxd4 21. Rxd4 Qxh4 22. g3 Qh2 23. c3 with an advantage to White thanks to weakness on e6.

**17. Bxe7 Qxe7 18. Ng5 h6**

Or 18... f6 19. exf6 Rxf6 20. Rhe1 Nc7 21. Qd3 with an edge.

**19. Qd3!**

Beginning a powerful attack.

**19...f5**

White wins quickly in case of 19... hxg5? 20. hxg5 f5 21. g6.





**20. g4!**

A strong sacrifice emphasizes White's superiority.

**20...hxg5 21. hxg5 Qf7**

Or 21... g6 22. gxf5 Rxf5 23. Nxf5 exf5 24. Qxd5+ Be6 25. Qd2 with a clear edge to the first player.

**22. gxf5 exf5 23. Qh3 Qg6 24. e6!**

After 24...Bxe6 25. Nf3 the good knight decided the game.

**Black resigned. 1-0 .**

# GM Dragolub Velimirovic (2480) – GM Ivstan Csom (2465) IBM Open Amsterdam, (Round # 3); 1974. [B89]

This game is also one of the most amazing and shocking (& pretty) combinations - involving a both a back-rank and a passed pawn - that I have studied in a long time. (I did a survey amongst a bunch of friends, students, etc. I sent them a small collection of about 35 games that were lightly annotated. Additionally, I later sent out a collection of quite a few more games, (75-100); but these were all annotated. The individuals concerned were asked to pick their favorite surprise or most shocking move. This game was an overwhelming favorite - *for the best combination/most surprising move* - by a near **3-to-1** margin.).

White gets a nice attack and completely overwhelms a fairly strong opponent. (Both players are GM's, at least today. Both players were rated nearly 2500 ELO when this game was played. This translates to a near FIDE 2600 rating today, when factoring in the overall inflation since the inception of Arpad Elo's rating system.).

**GM Dragoljub Velimirovic** is one of the more creative chess thinkers of the 20th century. He is (was) always an original thinker and an dangerous tactician and opponent. (His best playing days are probably behind him.)

Velimirovic has won the Yugoslav Championship at least twice, and also has won quite a few International Chess Tournaments. In 1986, he was rated 2575. (ELO) This was his peak and also probably put him in the top 10-15 players in the world.

**Istvan Csom** is a Hungarian **GM**.

We start off with a normal (Open) Sicilian.

**1.e4 c5; 2.Nf3 d6; 3.d4 Nf6; 4.Nc3 cxd4; 5.Nxd4 a6;**

We have reached a Najdorf Sicilian. This is one of the sharpest lines in all of Sicilian practice.

**6.Bc4!?**, (Maybe - '!')

This reaches the so-called "Sozin - Najdorf," or the Sozin-like lines of this variation of the Sicilian.

[ The main line is usually reached after the move: **6.Bg5**, with some of the sharpest lines in all of Sicilian praxis. White can also play: **6.Be2**, reaching the older - but

still very playable lines - (old main line); of the Najdorf Sicilian.].

**6...e6;**

The correct response, immediately blunting the effect of the White KB on the c4-square.

**7.Bb3,** (correct)

In these lines of the Sozin-Najdorf, one almost always retreats this piece to this square here on this move. (If White does not play this move, he could run into a lot of trouble.)

[ A very wild line is: **7.Be3!? b5; 8.Bb3 b4; 9.Na4 Nxe4;** " ~ " which is VERY dangerous ... for BOTH players!! ].

**7...Be7;**

Of course, there is absolutely nothing wrong with simple development here. This Bishop move also prepares a quick K-side castling. More normal today - at least according to many books here, and searches of the databases - is the line 7...b5!?

[ The main line, according to book, is the continuation: **7...b5!?**; A much sharper response than simply developing with moves such as ...Be7; or even ...Nc6. Now **8.O-O Be7; 9.Qf3!? Qc7; 10.Qg3 O-O; 11.Bh6!? Ne8; 12.Rad1 Bd7; 13.Nf3 Nc6; 14.Bf4 Qb7;** {Diagram?} The end of the column. **15.Rfe1 b4; 16.Ne2!? e5!?**; **17.Bg5 Be6; 18.Nh4!? Bxg5; 19.Qxg5 Na5; 20.Bd5!?**, (Or maybe *20.Ng3!?*). **20...Bxd5; 21.Rxd5 Nc4;** " ~ " ("=") According to MCO, this position is completely equal. (Maybe even a tad better for Black.). **Hracek - C. Lutz;** Germany, 1996.].

**8.Be3!?,**

White develops his Queen's-Bishop ... to a very nice central square. White obviously intends to try to get back to the main lines of the Velimirovic Attack. There is nothing wrong with this approach, yet it requires some co-operation from Black. Another question that needs to be answered here is: "Can I study the Velimirovic Attack and play it against the Najdorf?" The honest answer is, "**NO!**" While you can try to play the lines you are familiar with, Black does not have to transpose back to a pure Sozin ... and most of the better teachers (and books!) try to discourage Black from adopting this particular approach. (See the discussion after Black's next move.) [ **8.O-O!?** ].

**8...Nc6;**

A good development of this piece. ( Hits the center squares e5 and d4, develops a piece to a good - maybe it's very best - square, and helps in the over-all mobilization of Black's army. {Black

rarely castles on the Q-side, in this line!} ). But there are drawbacks to this move that the average player would not be aware of. This move transposes back to the Sozin Attack. Modern GM's who are great adherents to the "pure" lines of the Najdorf Sicilian would say this is the incorrect approach. While I cannot agree with this argument (above), it would seem that if a player of the Black pieces had studied the Najdorf, he should make every effort to try and keep the play as close to the opening he has prepared as possible. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' here ... it is just that if you are a professional chess player who does nothing but study chess, you may play any line you like. But if you are a student or an amateur, you need to use a more common-sense approach, and always try to make every reasonable effort to bring the game back to the lines you have studied. Does this sound like a fairly reasonable argument to you?

### **9.Qe2!?, (Maybe - '!')**

The Queen is developed to a strong, but flexible, central square. From this position the Q can quickly reach either side of the chess board, serving both the needs of attack or defense. With this move, White heads for the ultra, razor-sharp lines of ... "**The Velimirovic Attack.**" [ With the move: **9.O-O**, White heads for the main lines of the Sozin attack. ].

### **9...Qc7;**

The Black Queen is also developed to a good square, on the already half-open c-file. Now both sides castle.

### **10.O-O-O O-O;**

After a few transpositions, we have now reached the **main lines** ... of the Velimirovic Attack.

### **11.Kb1!?,**

A move designed to get the White King to just a slightly safer square. (See **L. Kavalek - F. Gheorghiu**; Amsterdam, 1974; - in any database of games.). This move is NOT the main line here. (More usual is g4, or Rhg1 here.) While this move is certainly very playable, this line is **not** - to the best of my knowledge - thoroughly explored by modern opening theory. *This move could also be considered a high-class **waiting** move ... Black is forced to reveal more of his middle-game plan before White commits completely to any particular attacking scheme.*

[ The main line here is almost certainly the move, **11.g4!?**, [ See MCO-14; pg.'s # 330-332, mainly column # 27, notes # (i.) through note # (k.). ]. My favorite move is: **11.Rhg1!?**, (See any good book on the Sicilian Sozin.) See also the game, **D. Ostapenko - P. Yartsev; U.S.S.R; 1969.**].

### **11...b5!?**

A thematic "space-grabber" in most variations of the Sicilian. This move is also a prelude to Black's own Q-side attack. [ Maybe the move **11...Bd7**; "=" is a mite safer here? ]. (It is not clear whether White should exchange here, or just play a3.)

**12.Nxc6**, (Maybe - '!')

Instead of being bothered with a3, or the thought of a possible ...Na5; White decides to simply exchange the Knights.

**12...Qxc6**; {Box}

This is forced, of course.

**13.Bd4!?**, {Diagram?} (Maybe even - '!')

I am not sure what White hopes to accomplish with this move. In the long run it could be a just a complete waste of time. (At least it looks that way, at a first glance.). But ... the move does place the QB on a slightly more active square, and also clears the e-file, and protects the e4-pawn. (Was White hoping to provoke Black into an early - and possibly reckless - pawn advance? {...d5})

[ I thought White would have been very happy with the move: **13.f3!?**, with a fairly level game. The move g4!? may even be playable here. (Trying to transpose back to more normal lines from here.) **13.g4!? b4!?**; Seemingly winning a pawn. (Most strong players - and computers - would be at least tempted to play this move in the current position.)

( About the same is: 13...Nxe4!?!; 14.Nd5!; "~" The position is a little unclear. Or maybe better is: 13...Bb7!; 14.Rd4!? e5!?!; 15.Nd5! Nxd5; 16.Bxd5 Qc7; 17.Rd2 Bxd5; 18.Rxd5, "~" It is an approximately level position. ) **14.Nd5!! exd5**; This looks forced. ( Play is very similar to the game, **L. Brunner - Weindl**; Switzerland, 1991. --- Except that White's Rook is on h1 instead of g1, and the White King is on b1. [ See **MCO-14**; pages # 330-332, Columns # 25 - 27, and mostly note # (f.). ] ). **15.g5 Bb7**; (!') This looks like the best move here.

**The alternatives to 15...Bb7 (!); are:**

**a.).** 15...Bg4?!; 16.f3 Bxf3[]; This looks like it might be forced.  
(The moves, ...d4; or ...dxe4; also lead to a large advantage for the first player.)

( 16...Be6?; 17.gxf6 Bxf6; 18.exd5; "+/-" or 16...Bd7?!; 17.gxf6 Bxf6; 18.Bxd5, "+/" (Maybe even "+/-") ) 17.Qxf3 dxe4; 18.Qg2 Nh5; 19.Bd5 Qe8; 20.Qxe4 Rc8; 21.Qxb4, "+/" {Diagram?} (Maybe "+/-")  
White has a very large - in fact, a nearly winning - advantage.

**b.).** 15...Qb5!?!; (Maybe dubious? {'?!'}) This turns out badly, yet is a fairly logical try  
for Black. 16.Qxb5 axb5; 17.gxf6 Bxf6; 18.Bxd5 Ra6; 19.Bd4, "+/=

{Diagram?}

White has a very good game. (A small, but secure, advantage.)

c.). Bad is: 15...dxe4?; 16.gxf6 Bxf6; 17.Bd5 Qb5; 18.Qxb5 axb5; 19.Bxa8

Bg4;

20.Bxe4 Bxd1; 21.Rxd1, "+/-" {Diagram?} White is just a piece up.

d). Probably inferior is: 15...Nxe4?!; 16.Bxd5 Qa4!; {Diagram?}

A passive retreat will simply just lose here.

(Now the position is almost an exact replica of the game:

L. Brunner - A. Weindl; - - - except White's Rook is on h1 instead of g1.)

(16...Qc7?!; 17.Bxa8, "+/"). 17.Bxa8, (!) "+/" {Diagram?} (Maybe

"+/-")

White is much better. (If not winning outright.)

( If 17.Bxe4!?, then 17...b3!; 18.Bxa8 Qxa2+; 19.Kc1 Bf5;

"Comp." {Unclear.} ).

(Returning to the main analysis line here.):

**16.gxf6 Bxf6; 17.Bxd5 Qc8; 18.Rhg1**, "+/=" {Diagram?} White has a small, - but solid - edge in this position. (Analysis Line. {A.J.G.} ].

**13...Bb7;**

A nice development of the Queen-Bishop on the long diagonal. (fianchetto.) This is probably the best development of this piece, yet an alternative was to develop the QB to d7. (To leave the a and b-files open for the Rooks.) [ **13...b4!?**; **14.Nd5!**, "+/=" White is just a little better. ].

**14.Rhe1**, (!')

White puts a Rook on a good square, forming a battery in the center of the board. White has developed all of his pieces ... to squares that are - at least visually, at first glance - very impressive. [ Playable was: **14.f3!?**, "=" The position is equal. ].

**14...Qc7;**

Black puts his Queen on maybe a slightly safer square.

[ I might have been tempted to call White's bluff and play b4. **14...b4!?**; "~" **15.Nd5!**, {Diagram?} A common idea in the Sicilian, but still a surprise. ---> **A nice tactic, and probably the whole point of White's 13th move!** (Less convincing is: >/= 15. Bxf6 Bxf6; 16.Na4 Rad8; "=/+"). **15...Bd8**; {Diagram?} According to several strong programs, this is forced. ( Just plain bad is: 15...exd5?; 16.exd5 Nxd5[]; (16...Qd7; 17.Qxe7, "+/-"). 17.Bxg7 Nf4; 18.Qxe7, "+/" ). **16.Bxf6 gxf6; 17.Nxb4**, "+/=" {Diagram?} White has a very clear advantage from this position. (Maybe - "+/"). The computer likes: **14...Bd8!?**; "~" {Diagram?} but it is hard to have much confidence in this move. ].

**15.a3!**, (nice)

White stops b4 for a while. I like this move very much. If White can hold up Black for just a few moves on the Queen-side, he can get his own attack going on the other side of the board. [ Also playable was: **15.f3**, or even **15.Qd2!?** ].

**15...Rac8;**

Black completes the mobilization of his entire army. [ An alternative here was: **15...e5!?**; **16.Be3! Rfc8**; **17.f3**, "+/=" I clearly like White here, although most programs see this as a nearly equal position. (The d5-square is open, and the d6-pawn is a near permanent liability. The Black QB could also become a bad piece in many endings.) ].

**16.f4!**, (very aggressive)

The most aggressive approach in this position. White now threatens several different pawn advances, (e5, f5, and P@g2-g5-g5); totally throwing Black off balance. I like this move as well. Not only is it one of the sharpest moves for White, it gains space, controls the e5-square, (keeping Black pieces from going there); and also has the possibility of discouraging Black from making advances in the center. [ **16.g4!?** ].

**16...e5!?**;

Black chooses the simplest and most direct route to prevent White from playing e5. Yet this move has its **drawbacks** - the d5 square has been significantly weakened. (!) [ Black could have tried: **16...Qb8**; "~" {Diagram?} with a seemingly playable game. Or maybe **16...Rfd8!?**; {Diagram?} when maybe White is just a little better. ].

**17.fxe5!?**, (Maybe - '!')

The most straight-forward method of dealing with the advance of Black's e-pawn. [ White could also have played: **17.Bg1!?**, "~" {Diagram?} with a very unbalanced position. ].

**17...dxe5**; **18.Nd5!**, "+/="

The only good approach for White now is straight ahead. The next few moves are now forced.[ **18.Bf2 Bxa3**; "=/+ " Black is just a fuzz better here. ].

**18...Bxd5**; **19.exd5 exd4**;

Now Black's d-pawn looks weak, and it appears - that eventually ..... White will be able to win it. [ **19...Nd7!?** ].

**20.Qxe7 Qxh2?!;** (doubtful)

Black grabs a pawn, but this is just too risky. [ Black could play: **20...Qb6!?**; but White is still better. Maybe the best line is:  $\geq$  **20...Qb8!**; **21.Qe5!**, "+/=" and Black might be able to hold a defensive position. ]

### **21.d6!**, "+/=" (the lunge of the passed-pawn)

White shoves his d-pawn. This brutal and direct shove of the d-pawn gives White a very big advantage.

[ Only mildly interesting is: **21.Qe5 Qxe5**; **22.Rxe5 Ne8**; and now ... **23.Rxd4**, "=" (Maybe - "+/=") {Diagram.} with a long endgame ahead. Or White could play: **21.Rxd4 Qxg2**; **22.Qb4**, "~" (Unclear.) when it is not clear who is better. ]

**21...Rce8?!**; (Maybe - '?!??')

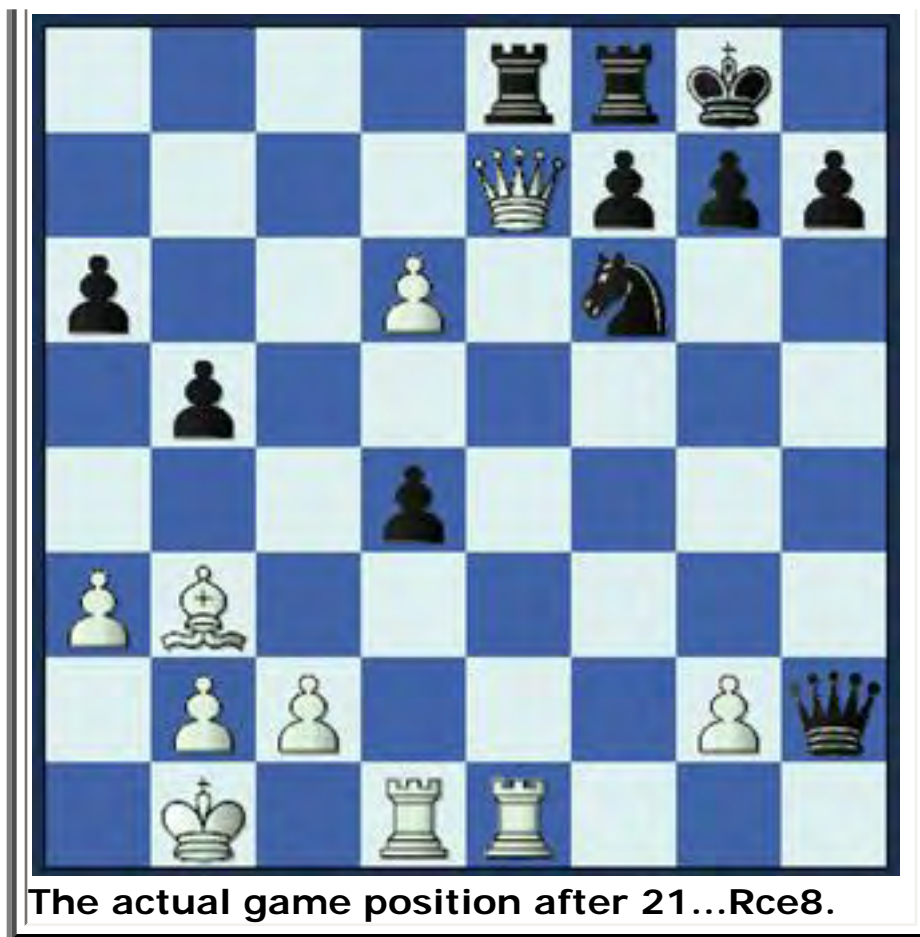
Black tries to drive away the White Queen, but this move is a mistake. I would like to think Black was short of time, otherwise how do you explain a very strong player missing what follows?

[ MUCH better than the game was:  $\geq$  **21...Qh5**[ ]; with extra protection for the f7-square. Now White would win with: **22.g4! Qg6**; **23.g5! Qxg5**; **24.d7 Rb8**; This looks to be forced. (Bad is: *24...Rcd8?*; *25.Bxf7+! Kh8*; *26.Be8*, "+/-" Definitely bad is: *24...Nxd7??*; *25.Qxg5*, "+/-" ). **25.Rg1 Qh4**; **26.Bxf7+! Rxf7**; **27.d8Q+ Rxd8**; **28.Qxd8+ Rf8**; **29.Rxg7+!! Kxg7**; **30.Qe7+! Kg6**; **31.Rg1+! Kf5**; **32.Qc5+! Ke6**; **33.Qxf8**, "+/-" with a won game for White. (Did Black see this threat?). Definitely bad would be: **21...Rfe8??**; **22.Bxf7+**, (" +/-") {Diagram?} winning for White. ]

Now we are treated to a cute combination, based on the power of a pawn on the 6th or 7th rank.







White to move. - - - What move would you play in this position?

**22.Bxf7+!!**, (Maybe even - '!!!')

A real surprise ... an absolute 'nuke' of a move. ---> (Most of my students rate this as a complete "10" in shock value. A one being the lowest, and a ten being the highest on the scale.)

[ At this point, I would have probably been tempted to play something like: **22.Qc7!? Rc8; 23.Qb6 Rb8; 24.Qxd4**, playing on the fact that White has a very strong, passed-QP. A friend and TD ; suggested that White could probably win with Qxf7+, ..... but this fails completely: **22.Qxf7+, Rxf7; 23.Rxe8**, The only real try. **23....Nxe8**; So far, so forced. **24.d7, Qb8**; (This is forced.) **25.dxe8+ = (Q)**, {Diagram?} The only real try here. (25.Rf1?, Nf6; "-/+") **25...Qxe8; 26.Rf1, h5!; 27.g3, g6; 28. Ka2!?, Kg7; 29.Rxf7+, Qxf7; 30.Bxf7, Kxf7; 31.Kb3!?, g5!**; ("-/+") Black has an easy win in the K+P endgame. ]

**22...Rxf7; 23.Qxe8+!**, (Maybe even - '!!!')

The correct follow-up to the Bishop sacrifice. (But still a surprising Queen sacrifice according to many of my students.)

[ **23.Qxf6!? Rxe1!**; "-/+" ]

**23...Nxe8; 24.Rxe8+ Rf8; 25.d7 Qd6[ ];**

Virtually the only move here for Black. (Black must stop White's QP from promoting, or resign.)

**[ 25...Qf4; 26.d8Q, "+/-" Or 25...Rxe8?; 26.dxe8Q# ].**

**26.Rf1!,**

Black Resigns. 1 - 0

Taking the pawn on d7 allows mate.

**[ After the continuation: 26.Rf1! Qf6; {Box?} This is probably forced.**

**The alternatives are:**

**a.)** 26...h6?!; 27.Rxf8+ Kh7; {Diagram?} This is forced.

(27...Qxf8; {'?!'} 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8; 29.d8Q+, "+/-" ). 28.d8Q,  
"+/-" {Diagram?}

Do you think TWO extra Rooks are enough to win?

**b.)** 26...Qxd7?; 27.Rexf8#, {Diagram?} (Either rook capture was a mate.)

**27.Rxf8+ Qxf8; 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8; 29.d8Q+, {Diagram?} (" +/-")**

White has an elementary win. **]**.

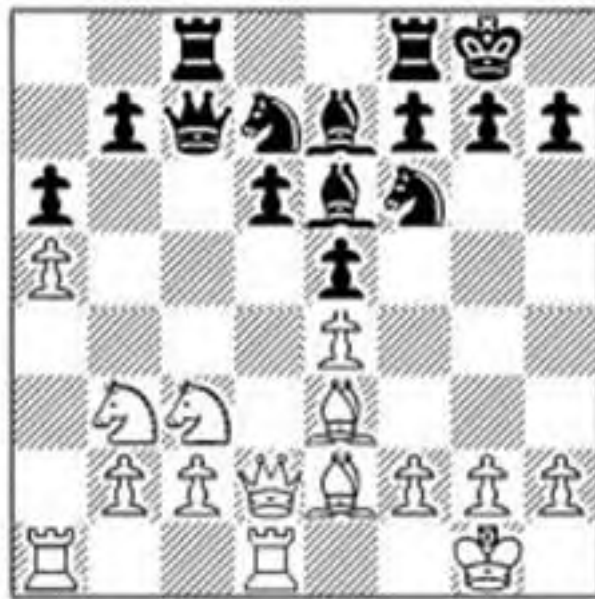
-----> A **very** brilliant game by the originator of the Velimirovic Attack!!!

**1 - 0**

## Opecensky Variation (6.Be2)

**Andy Voss** from the **United States** will probably agree because he has been spending his spare time trying to justify an idea in the Najdorf and having the courage to play it. He writes " I have been a fan of chess for about 12 years now. I have loved to play the Sicilian-Najdorf but find that the books give me slow lines that can create aggressive natured positions but some are just boring. One such position I have looked at recently is this: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 O-O O-O 9 Be3 Be6 10 Qd2 Nbd7 11 a4 Rc8 12 a5 Qc7 13 Rfd1 Now all the books say strictly 13 ... Qc6. It gives other lines Like ...Rfe8 and such, bad marks. What I was wondering about is this...13 ... Nxe4!? with a continuation 14 Nxe4 Qxc2 15 Qxc2 Rxc2 16 Nc1 d5 17 Ng5 d4 18 Nxe6 fxe6 19 Bd2 Rxb2 20 Bg4 Rf6 This comes out to be roughly equal to me. Black's Knight for White's three pawns and a Rook on the second rank seems like more than enough compensation for me as White's pieces are looking unused. There are other continuations, but I have concluded that the best that White can do is be a pawn down. I feel that this could be a real threat, as a 1900 couldn't beat me as White when I played this. As I am only 1300 I feel this is a good addition to the Najdorf Line, but I want to know what you think. It is certainly worth a closer look and I admire your determination to find a new line in an old position.

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 O-O O-O 9 Be3 Be6 10 Qd2 Nbd7 11 a4 Rc8 12 a5 Qc7 13 Rfd1**



This is a standard position in one of the main lines, so I assumed somebody had tried your idea. A quick look in the books did me no good so I can't tell you if anyone else has tried your idea.

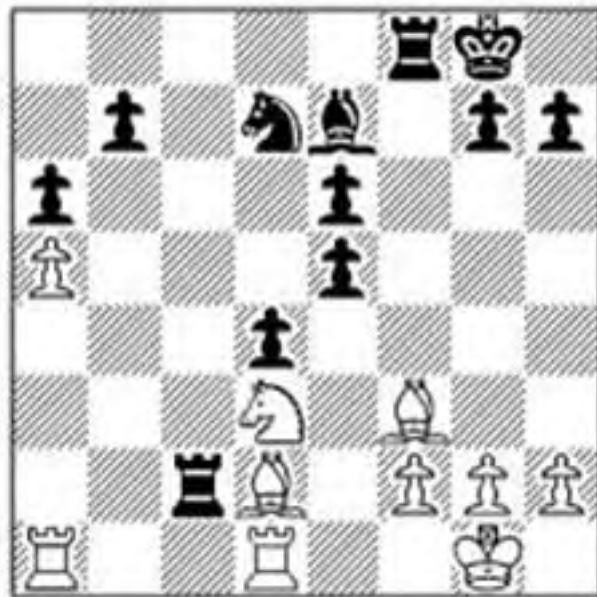
**13...Nxe4!?** The knight is sacrificed as a way to win three pawns for the piece. My intuition tells me that it cannot be completely correct. This is because the extra piece is more important at an early stage of the game because the pawns are far from the eighth rank and consequently as they gradually advance they can be picked off one by one.

**14 Nxe4 Qxc2 15 Qxc2 Rxc2 16 Nc1** I tried to improve on your analysis with 16 Nbd2 but found nothing significant.

**16...d5 17 Ng5** At first I tried to make 17 Bd3 work but the sample line ran 17...Rxb2 18 Nc3 Rd8 (18...Rc8? 19 Nxd5 Bxd5 20 Bf5 wins) 19 Na4 Rb4 when Black has decent chances.

**17...d4 18 Nxe6 fxe6 19 Bd2 Rxb2 20 Nd3!** I like this move, which I think is a significant improvement on your suggestion of 20 Bg4 Rf6 that does promise Black some chances in the ending as you point out. The difference now is that

after **20...Rc2** White has **21 Bf3**



attacking the b7 pawn making Black turn to defensive duties and the bishop also helps to stop the advance of the central pawns. I think White is better and should be victorious.

# Zan Win Lay-J. Polgar Japfa Classic 2000

Judit introduced an interesting theoretical newness in this game. After a complicated fight it transposed towards a good end in which one prevailed with category.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.O-O O-O  
9.Be3 Be6 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.a4 Rc8 12.a5 Qc7 13.Rfd1 Rfd8 14.Qe1 Qc6 15.Bf3  
h6**

[ the classic line in this variation followed another way: 15... Bc4 16.Nc1 h6 17.N1a2  
Nc5 18.Nb4 Qe8 19.g3 Rc7 20.Bg2 Rdc8 21.b3 Be6 22.Ncd5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.  
Rxd5 Rc6 25.Rad1 Karpov-Nunn, Amsterdam 1985 (1-0 in 40) ]

## **16.Nc1!**

A standard maneuver with the Horse, to transport it towards b4 taking the control from the square d5, with many later dangers for the Black.

## **16... Qc7N**



Interesting newness of Judith, going ahead to the white maneuver. [ the blacks could not equal after 16... Ng4 17.Nd5 Bh4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.Rd2 Re8 20.Na2 Bd8 21.Nab4 Qb5 22.b3 Nc5 23.f3 Be6 24.c4 Qd7 25.Qd1± Aseev-Popov, Nizhnij Novgorod 1998 (½ - ½ in 54); Against 16... Nc5 is strong 17.N1a2; Another failure for the 16 blacks

produced... Ra8! 17.Nd3 b5 18.Nb4 Qb7 19.Ncd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bf5 21.Nc6± although finally was tables, Asrian-A.Petrosian, Erevan 1996 (½ - ½ in 55) ]

### 17.Nd3 d5?



The ambition of manifest Polgar: "forced" to overcome the player of smaller ranking of the match, a laborer by contrajuego sacrifices.

### 18.exd5

[ would not be good 18.Nxd5! Bxd5 19.exd5 e4 20.Bf4 Qc4 21.b3 (21.Bxe4 Qxe4 22.Qxe4 Nxe4 23.Re1 Ndf6 24.f3 Bc5+-+) 21... Qxd5 22.Ne5 Qe6 23.Nxd7 exf3!µ and the blacks would be better ]

### 18... Bf5 19.Bb6!

Zaw Win Lay, as it said that old televising publicity: "... it marks his level ". Perhaps this it is the moment for looking for an improvement. [ Better had been 19.Ra4 Bd6 20.g3 Re8 21.Bg2 e4 22.Nf4 Ne5 the white would conserve its extra laborer, although the blacks would have compensation; Also 20.Bg3 Re8 would be interesting to analyze 19.Bf4 Bd6 at great length 21.Be2 e4 22.Nf4 with the idea if 22... Bxf4 23.d6 ]

### 19... Nxb6 20.axb6 Qxb6 21.Qxe5 Bxd3 22.Na4

[ In case of 22.Rxd3 Qxb2 23.Ra2 the Black would dispatch with excellent the 23... Qb6! with clear advantage. Considering that the Be7 is taboo because of the weakness of white forward edge. ]

22... Qb4 23.cxd3



Now the extra laborer of the white is doubled and isolated. [ 23.Rxd3 Rxc2<sup>3</sup> ]

23... Re8 24.Qe2 Bd6 25.Qd2 Qd4 26.Nc3 Bb4 27.Ne2 Qb6 28.Nc3 Red8 29.d4  
Rc7 30.Qd3 Rdc8 31.Ne2 Bd6 32.b3 Rc2 33.Rac1 Rxc1 34.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 35.Nxc1  
Qa5 36.Qd1 Qa1



The blacks, after a ten of plays, have improved their position remarkably. In fact, with the Ladies on the board, the heterogeneity of Bishops grants advantage to him to

Judith: its Bishop of dark squares is considerably more fort than its white similar of clear squares.

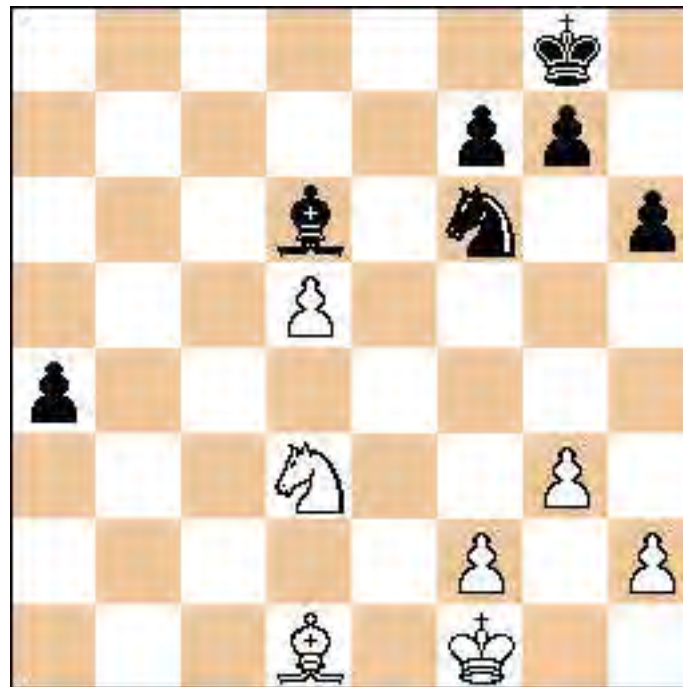
**37.g3 Ba3 38.Nd3 Qxd4**

the blacks balances the material.

**39.Nf4 Qxd1+ 40.Bxd1**

the positional advantage of the blacks in this end will be capitalized with amazing technique on the part of Judith.

**40... Bd6 41.Nd3 b5 42.Bf3 a5 43.Kf1 a4 44.bxa4 bxa4 45.Bd1**



[ was not sufficient defense 45.Ke2 a3 46.Nc1 Kf8μ ]

**45... a3 46.Bb3 Ne4 47.Kg2!**

[ 147.Ke1 although... 47... Nc3 48.Nc1 Bb4 ]

**47... g5 48.f3 Nc3 49.Nc1 Kg7 50.Na2 Nb5 51.Bc4 Nd4 52.Kf2 Bc5 53.Ke3 f5 54. g4 Kf6 55.gxf5 Kxf5 56.d6 Ne6+ 57.Kd3 Bxd6-+ 58.Nc3 Nf4+ 59.Kc2 Ng2 60. Kb3 Ne1 61.Bd5 Kf4 62.Ne4 Bf8 63.Nd2 Nd3 64.Kc3 Nc1 65.Nb3 a2 66.Na1 Ne2 + 67.Kd3 Ng1 68.Bxa2 Nxf3 69.Nc2 Nxh2 70.Nd4 Bd6 71.Ke2 Ng4 72.Bf7 Nf6 73.Bg6 g4 74.Ne6+ Kg3 75.Ng7 Kh2 76.Nf5 g3**

**0-1**





# Khalifman - Gelfand Sicilian Defence (B92)

FIDE WCh KO Las Vegas,

11.08.1999

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 Be3 Be6 9 Nd5 Nbd7 10 Qd3 Bxd5 11 exd5 0-0 12 g4!



In a sharp opposite-side castling position, Khalifman gets his pawns moving. This doesn't seem to be a very common or recommendable variation for Black, but maybe Gelfand had found the following game in

his database and planned to improve 12 Qd3 e4 13 Qd4 Nc5 14 h4 Nfd7 15 g5 f5 16 Qd2 Nxb3 17 axb3 Ne5 18 h5 Rc8 19 g6 hxg6 20 hxg6 Nxg6 21 Bh5 Nh4? (better 21... Ne5) 22 0-0-0 Ng2 23 Rdg1 f4? 24 Rxg2 fxe3 25 Qxe3 Rc7 26 Bg4 g5 27 Qxe4 1-0 A. Van der Wall-S. Tengely, Kecskemet 1991.

12...Nc5 13 Nxc5 dxc5 14 0-0-0 e4



Gelfand tries to get counterplay by giving up two pawns, to get control of e5 and

rupture the white king's pawn defences, and when this doesn't succeed he also sacrifices the exchange. However, Khalifman repulses the initiative and wins

**15 Qd2 Bd6 16 g5 Nd7 17 h4 Ne5 18 h5 Rc8 19 Rh4 c4 20 Rxe4 c3 21 bxc3 Qa5 22 Kb1 Rxc3 23 Bd4 Rfc8 24 Bxc3 Rxc3 25 Qd4**



The white queen is now perfectly placed for attack and defence.

**25...f6 26 gxf6 gxf6 27 f4 Bc5 28 Qa4 Qb6+ 29 Ka1 Nf7 30 Qe8+ Kg7 31 h6+ Nxf6 32 Qd7+ Nf7 33 Rb1 Qd8 34 Rxb7 Qxd7 35 Rxd7 Rxc2 36 Bh5 Ba3 37 Re1 Bb4 38 Rxf7+ Kh6 39 Rh1 1-0.**

# Kramnik,V (2777) - Anand,V (2766) [B92]

## GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 20.01.2004

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

Yet another Najdorf Sicilian

**6.Be2**

But not the English Attack, notable with its f3, Be3, Qd2 complex

**6...e5**

A natural reaction. 5...a6 stole the Nb5 square.

**7.Nb3 Be7**

Black's structure is like the Sveshnikov (or Pelikan, but white is less able to manoeuvre both of his knights to d5).

**8.Bg5**

Aiming to capture the Nf6 with the idea of Nd5, where, without the Nf6, the Nd5 can dominate the board.

**8...Be6**

The Nf6 will be exchanged, so black needs to place a piece in contact with d5.

**9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Qd3**

Having identified and fixed the d6-weakness, white prepares to attack it twice with the Qd3 and Rd1. The central pressure will also inhibit black's d5-pawn break.

**10...Nc6 11.O-O-O Be7**

Defending d6 a second time.

**12.Kb1 O-O 13.Nd5 Bg5 14.h4**

Typical also in the Sveshnikov. White offers the h-pawn for open lines against the Black

kingside

**14...Bxh4 15.g3 Bf6 16.Qf3**

With the obvious idea of Qh5 and f4. Black needs quick counterplay.

**16...Bg5 17.Qh5 h6 18.f4 Bf6 19.Nd2 Nd4 20.Bc4**

Keeping a piece in contact with the d5 hole.

**20...Rc8 21.c3 Nb5 22.f5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5**



With the idea of Qg6, Rxh6, and Qh7#

**23...Rxc3**

[ 23...Qb6 24.Ka1]

**24.Qg6**

[ 24.bxc3 Nxc3+ 25.Kc2 ( 25.Ka1 Qa5 26.Nb1 ( 26.Qg6 Nxd5-+ ) ) 25...Qc7 ( 25...Nxd5 26.exd5 Qa5 27.Qf3 Qxa2+ 28.Kd3 Rc8 29.Ke2 Bg5 30.Qd3 Rc5 31.Qb3 Rc2 32.Qxa2 Rxa2=) 26.Kd3 Nxd1 27.Rxd1 Rc8]

**24...Qb6**

[ 24...Kh8 25.Rxh6+ gxh6 26.Qxh6+ Kg8 27.Rh1+-]

**25.Rxh6**

[ 25.Rxh6 Na3+ 26.Ka1 Nc2+ 27.Kb1 Na3+=]

**1/2-1/2**

## Opening: B92 - Sicilian Defense

### Introduction:

The line 6.Be2 e5 of the Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defense normally grants to the white a small advantage. **The white are proving much last the line 8.Be3, without enrocar, followed after 9.Nd5, instead of the recommendations of the Yugoslav Encyclopedia 9.Qd2 and 9.f4**, whose main idea is to overturn the weight of the game in massive form on the flank lady. The blacks must solve the problems derived from the lack of space to maneuver their pieces. In this game, she is clear how the Blacks do not have to play, and we offer some suggestions to try to improve the black game.

## **Dolmatov, S (2615) - Minasian, A (2485) [ B92 ] V City of Ubeda Op Ubeda (Spain) (8.4), 26.01.2000**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5?**

[ 9.Qd2? 9.f4 ]

**9... Nbd7**

[ Korchnoi recommends 9... Nxd5? 10.exd5 Bf5 11.Qd2 a5 12.a4 0-0 13,0-0 g5! complex ]

**10.Qd3 Rc8**

[ 10... 0-0 11.c4 b5 12.cxb5 axb5 13,0-0 Bxd5 14.exd5 Rb8 15.Rfc1+ = Brodsky, M- Neverov, V/Hoogeveen 1999/EXT 2000; 10... Bxd5 11.exd5 0-0 ( After 11... h5? 12.h3 h4 13.g4 hxg3 14.fxg3 Rc8 15,0-0-0 Nb6 16.Bxb6 Qxb6 17.Kb1 0-0 complex Khalifman, A-King, D/Germany 1999/EXT 2000 ) 12.g4! Khalifman bases its strategy on the advance of the laborers of the flank king on the black K. Korchnoi said that Khalifman found this play shortly before Fertile valleys.

**A)** 12... e4? 13.Qd4 Nc5 (13... Ne5 14.Rg1 Nf3+ 15.Bxf3 exf3 16,0-0-0 Rc8 17.Qf4 Qc7 18.c3 b5 19.Qxf3 b4 20.Bd4±) 14.Nd2 (14.g5 Nfd7 15.Nxc5 Nxc5 16.b4 Nd7 17.Qxe4 uncertain Bxg5) 14... a5;

**B)** Korchnoi suggested 12... Nb6 13.c4 Na4;

**C)** 12... Nc5 13.Nxc5 dxc5 14,0-0-0 e4 (14... Bd6 15.g5 Ne8 16.Qf5±) 15.Qd2 Bd6 (15... Qb6 16.g5 Ne8 17.h4 Nd6 18.h5±) 16.g5 Nd7 17.h4

**C1)** 17... f5 18.gxf6 Qxf6 (18... Nxf6 19.Rhg1±) 19.h5 Ne5+ =;

**C2)** 17... Rc8;

**C3** 17... Ne5! 18.h5 Rc8? (18... f5 19.gxf6 Qxf6 20.Rhg1 b5<sup>2</sup>) 19.Rh4!± Khalifman, A-Gelfand, B/Las Fertile valleys 1999/CBM 72]

**11.c4 0-0 12,0-0 Bxd5**

[ 12... b5 13.cxb5 axb5 ]

**13.cxd5**

[ Known was 13.exd5 Ne8 14.Rac1 f5 15.f4 g5! (15... e4÷) 16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Qd1 Ng7 18.Nd4± Hansen, C-Lehikoinen, P/Reykjavik 1998/CBM 64]

**13... Nb6?N**



Erroneous theoretical newness... This N arrives until c5 in three times, and causes the improvement of the location of the white Nb3, that is not very comfortable in b3, to d2, from where it defends in center. [ Interesting era 13... b6? with idea of Nc5 14.Rfc1 (14. Qxa6! Nxe4) 14... Nc5 (14... a5? 15.Rxc8 Qxc8 16.Rc1 Qb7 17.Qb5 Rb8 18.f3 Nc5 19. Nxc5 bxc5 20.Qxb7 Rxb7 21.Rc2+ =) 15.Nxc5 bxc5 16.f3 Rb8 17.b3+ = ]

**14.Nd2 Na4 15.Qa3 Nc5 16.f3**

Now she sees herself that the Blacks used three times to take to the N until c5, from where will be thrown immediately!

**16... Nh5**



[ Now 16... a5 would be responded with 17.Nc4 b6 18.b4 axb4 19.Qxb4 Nfd7 20.Rfb1 and the white have great initiative in the flank lady. ]

**17.b4 Nd7 18.g3 g6**

[ the white gain quality after 18... f5 19.exf5 Rxf5 20.g4 Nf4 21.gxf5 Rc3 22.Qa5 Rxe3 23.Qxd8+ Bxd8 24.Bd1 Bb6 25.Kh1± ]

**19.Nc4 f5!**

Now the blacks must recapture in f5 with laborer, and then the Nh5 is defenseless.  
[ Something better era 19... Ng7 20.Na5 Qc7 21.Rac1 Qb8 22.Qa4 and the white maintain the initiative, although the blacks have alleviated position more than in the game ]

**20.exf5 gxf5 21.f4 Qe8?**

Final error [ resisted 21 more... exf4 22.gxf4 Qe8 23.Kh1 with initiative ]

**22.fxe5 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.Qd3 Bxb4**

[ 24... Bd6 25.Rxf5 Rxf5 26.Qxf5 Ng7 27.Qg4± ]

**25.d6 Rc3 26.Qd5+ Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Rxf7 28.Bxh5 Rxe3 29.Bxf7+ Kxf7 30.d7 1-0**

## Sicilian defense, Najdorf variation

Gimón, Or - Röhl, J (2330) [ B92 ]

National championship of Duplas (4), 04.07.1998

[ Juan Röhl ]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

My fidelity by the Najdorf variation is eternal, the Fischer guilty, Kasparov and my desire to worsen the fight from the beginning

6.Be2



Solid alternative, favorite of Karpov and Geller, among others, the idea is to finalize the development of figures quickly and to prepare an offensive combined in both flanks

6... e5

[6... e6 this play allows to make flexible the mobility of the pieces, and in a future to perhaps make the longed for Pd6-d5 rupture ]

7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 Be6

[ 8... 0-0 is more precise, but it wanted to avoid the fashionable variant, the one that begins with 9.Kh1 followed or of a4 or f4 according to the circumstances ]

## 9.f4 Qc7 10.f5 Bc4 11.g4

[ 11.Bg5 Oll, 11 Ls... Nbd7 12.a4 0-0 13.Kh1 Rfc8 (13... h6 (Oll, L) - 28/(458) ) 14. a5 h6 15.Bxf6 N (15.Bh4 Oll, Ls ) 15... Nxf6 16.Bxc4 Qxc4 17.Qf3 Rc7 18.Nd2 (18. Ra4 Oll, 18 Ls... Qc6 19.g4!<sup>2</sup>) 18... Qb4 19.Rfb1 Rac8 20.Ra4 Qc5 21.Rba1 Bd8 22. Nf1! (22.Nc4 Oll, 22 Ls... Qxc4; 22.g3! Oll, Ls ) 22... b5 23.axb6 Qxb6 24.R1a2 a5! 25.h3 (25.Rxa5 Oll, 25 Ls... Rxc3 26.bxc3 Qxa5; 25.Nd2 Oll, 25 Ls... d5 26.exd5 Rxc3 27.bxc3 e4!÷) 25... Rc4 26.Rxc4 Rxc4 27.Nd2 Rb4 28.Ra1 Qc6 29.b3 a4 (29... Rd4! Oll, L 30.Rd1 a4 31.Ne2! Rb4 32.c3 =) 30.Rxa4 Rxa4 31.bxa4 Ba5 32. Nd5! Qxc2 (32... Nxd5 Oll, L 33.exd5 Qxc2 34.Ne4) 33.Nxf6+ gxf6 34.Nf1 d5 35. Ne3! (35.exd5 Oll, 35 Ls... e4 36.Qg3+ Kh7 37.Ne3 Qc1+ 38.Kh2 Be1) 35... Qc1+ (35... Qb1+ Oll, L 36.Qd1) 36.Kh2 dxe4 37.Qxe4 Bb6 38.Nd5 Bf2 39.Nxf6+ Kh8 40. Qa8+ (40.h4 Oll, 40 Ls... Qg1+ 41.Kh3 Qh1+ 42.Kg4 Qxh4+ 43.Kf3 Qxf6 44.Kxf2 Qd6 =) 40... Kg7 41.Nh5+ Kh7 42.Nf6+ Kg7 43.Nh5+ ½ - ½ Oll, L-Kasparov, G/ Moscow (ol) 1994/Inf 62/[Oll, L ] (43); 11.a4 Nbd7 12.Kh1 0-0 13.a5 b5 14.axb6 Nxb6 15.Bg5 Rfc8 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Ra2 Bg5 20.f6 Bxf6 21.Qh5 Jansa, V-Hansson, D/Borgarnes 1985/Inf 39 (21) ]

## 11... h6 12.Be3 b5

One of those stereotyped plays that as much damage make the chess player, the correct thing is Nbd7 and not to debilitate the lady flank prematurely

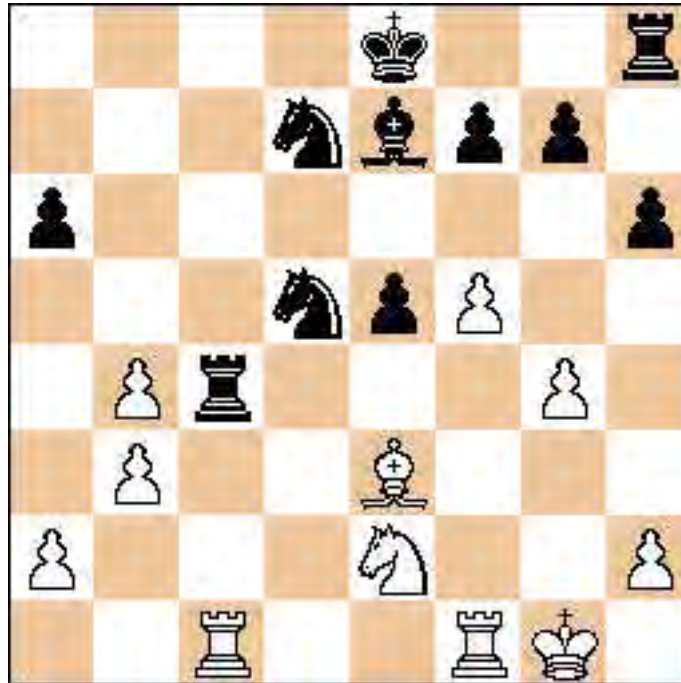
## 13.Bxc4 Qxc4 14.Qf3 Nbd7 15.Rac1 b4 16.Nd2 Qc7



From a moved game begins here very and in which it chooses to complicate the

game in extremis, I think that my decision was correct, because we must learn to inside fight and outside the staggered board

**17.Ne2 Qa5 18.Nc4 18 Qb5 [... Qxa2 19.b3± ] 19.b3 Rc8 20.c3 d5 21.exd5 Qxd5 22.Qxd5 Nxd5 23.cxb4 Rxc4**



An controversial play and that I am the one that gives some chances of victory, did not like 0-0 in view of Bd2 and the position of the Nc4 gets to worry to me

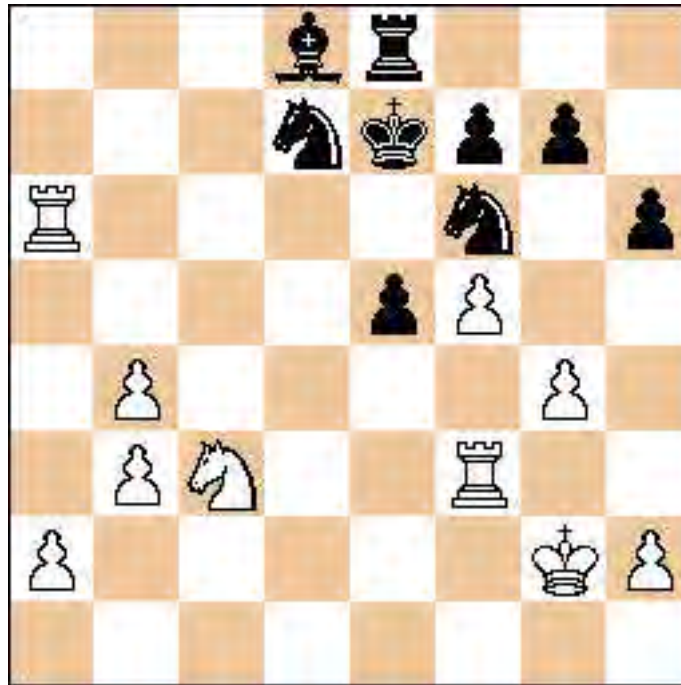
**24.Rxc4**

Acertadamente the MY Antonio Palaces I condemn this played innocent, after little obvious 24.bxc4 Nxe3 25.Rf3 the best thing is 25... Bb4 26.Re3 Bc5 27.Kf2 Nf6 28.h3 h5 with black initiative in the end [ 24.bxc4 Nxe3 25.Rf3 Bxb4 26.Rxe3 Bc5 27.Kf2 Nf6 28.h3 Ne4+ 29.Kf3 Ng5+ 30.Kf2 Nxh3+ 31.Kf3 Ng5+ 32.Kf2 h5!μ ]

**24... Nxe3 25.Rc8+ Bd8 26.Rf3 Nd5**

and the black manages to connect its Ns and activates its pieces

**27.Nc3 N5f6 28.Ra8 Ke7 29.Kg2 Re8 30.Rxa6**



Serious error in hardship of time, better was Rd3 with some complications

**30... Bb6 31.Rd3 Rc8 32.Nd5+ Nxd5 33.Rxd5 Rc2+ 34.Kh3**

[ 34.Kf3 resisted a little more ]

**34... Bd4 35.b5 Nf6**

[ 35... Nf6 36.Rdd6 Rc3+ 37.Kg2 Nxc4 38.Rdc6 Ne3+ 39.Kf3 Nc4+ ]

**36.b6**

tries to entangle everything, but...

**36... Nxd5 37.b7 Nf4+ 38.Kg3 Rc3+ 0-1**

**Sutovsky,E (2664) - Nikolaidis,I (2524) B92  
Euroleon Leon (5), 10.11.2001**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.O-O Be6  
9.f4 Qc7 10.Kh1 Nbd7 11.g4**

**11.f5 Bxb3 12.cxb3 Rd8<sup>2</sup>**

**11...h6 12.g5**



**12.f5 Bxb3 13.axb3 Rc8=**

**12...hxg5 13.fxg5 Nh7 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.Qd2 0-0-0 17.Qe3 Kb8 18.  
Rd1 f6 19.Na5 Nxc5**

**Weaker is 19...fxg5 20.Bxa6 Nc5 21.Bxb7=**

**20.Bxa6 Rh3 21.Qd2 Nc5 With the decisive threat Nf3**



21...Nxe4? is a blank shot 22.Qb4 Nb6 23.Bxb7 Nf2+ 24.Kg2+-

**22.Bxb7 Nf3 Threatening mate: Rdh8**

22...Ncxe4?? the pawn must remain untouched 23.Qb4 Rdh8 24.Bxe4+ Kc8 25.Bb7+ Kc7 26.Be3 Rxe3 27.Bg2+-;

22...Ngxe4 23.Bxe4 Nxe4 24.Qb4+ Kc8 25.Qxe4±

**23.Nc6+ Kxb7 24.Nxe7 Nxd2 25.Rxd2 Nxe4 26.Rg2 g5 Plans Rd7**



**27.c4 Bxc4 28.b3 Be6 29.Rc2 Rdh8 30.Ba3**

30.Kg1 g4 31.Re2 f5-+

**30...g4**

30...R3h7 and Black can already relax 31.Nc6 Bd5 32.Na5+ Ka6 33.Nc4 Nd2+ 34.Kg1 Rxh2 35.Rxd2 Rxd2 36.Nxd2 Rh1+ 37.Kf2 Rxa1 38.Bxd6 Rxa2 39.Ke1-+

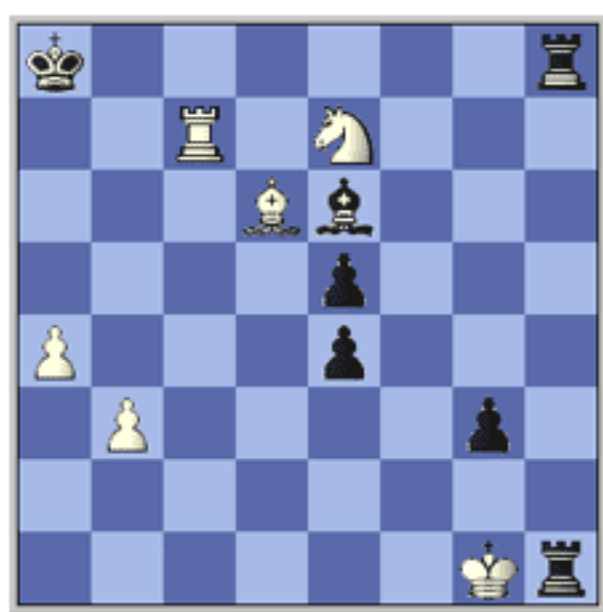
**31.Re1 f5**

31...d5 might be the shorter path 32.Rb1-+

**32.Rxe4 fxe4 33.Bxd6 g3 34.Rc7+ Ka8 35.a4**

35.Bxe5 R8h7 36.Bd4 e3 37.Ra7+ Kb8 38.Nc6+ Kc8 39.Ra8+ Kb7 40.Ra7+ Kxc6 41.Ra6 + Kd5 42.Bxe3 Bg4-+

**35...Rxh2+ 36.Kg1 Rh1+**



36...Bg4 37.Ra7+ Kxa7 38.Bc5+ Kb7 39.Nd5 Rh1+ 40.Kg2 Bf3+ 41.Kxg3 R8h3+ 42.Kf2 R3h2+ 43.Ke3 Re1#

**37.Kg2-+ R1h2+**

37...R8h2+ 38.Kxg3 Re2 39.Rc8+ Bxc8 40.Nxc8 Rg1+ 41.Kh3 Re3+ 42.Kh4 Rxb3-+

**38.Kg1 Bg4**

38...Bxb3?! is a useless try 39.Nc8 Rxc8 40.Rxc8+ Kb7 41.Rc7+ Kb6 42.Bxe5 Bxa4 43.Rc3μ

**39.Bxe5**

39.Ra7+ does not save the day 39...Kxa7 40.Bc5+ Kb7 41.Nd5 Rh1+ 42.Kg2 Bf3+ 43.Kxg3 R8h3+ 44.Kf2 R3h2+ 45.Ke3 Re1#



### 39...Bf3

39...Bf3 40.Ra7+ Kxa7 41.Bd4+ Kb7 42.Kf1 Rb2 43.Bf2 Rxf2+ 44.Ke1 Rh1# 0-1

# Karpov,A - Kasparov,G [B85] Moscow (24), 1985

**1.e4 c5**

The Sicilian. Black's idea is to inhibit d2-d4 and to open the c-file for his major pieces

**2.Nf3 d6**

Very flexible, with the possibility of a Najdorf (...a6), Dragon (...g6), or Scheveningen (...e6)

**3.d4 cxd4**

Capturing towards the center, opening the c-file.

**4.Nxd4 Nf6**

Attacking the e-pawn in order to stop c2-c4.

**5.Nc3**

The main line, but now white cannot establish the "Maroczy bind" with pawns on c4 and e4 (stopping counterplay with d7-d5)

**5...a6**

The Najdorf variation. In many lines, Black can now play ...e5 without having to face Nb5 or Bb5

**6.Be2**

A solid continuation. More challenging, perhaps, are Bg5, Bc4, and the English Attack with Be3 or f3

**6...e6**

A Kasparov favorite, establishing a solid pawn center, lessening the possibility of e4-e5

**7.O-O Be7 8.f4 O-O 9.Kh1**

Removing the king from the diagonal.

### 9...Qc7

A natural post for the queen in these lines. The a- and e-pawns prevent knight attacks on b5 and d5.

### 10.a4

To prevent ...b5

### 10...Nc6

Hedgehog players often prefer to develop the queen knight on d7, but here, white can quickly play g4-g5. The Nf6 needs d7 for its escape.

### 11.Be3 Re8



Typical play, with the idea of Bf8 and a late kingside fianchetto

### 12.Bf3 Rb8

and removing the rook from the long diagonal

### 13.Qd2 Bd7

Aiming towards c6 and maintaining contact with the e6-pawn

### **14.Nb3**

Threatening a4-a5. Black would then have a structurally weak b-pawn.

### **14...b6**

Completing the Hedgehog structure. Black's development remains sub-optimal... The Nc6 and Bd7 are misplaced, but the structure offers black plenty of time to reorganize.

### **15.g4**

Idea g5... Black must vacate d7

### **15...Bc8 16.g5 Nd7 17.Qf2 Bf8**

With no pressure on d6, black pursues the idea of Rg6 and Bg7

### **18.Bg2**

Readying f4-f5

### **18...Bb7 19.Rad1 g6 20.Bc1 Rbc8**

[20...Nc5 After the game, Kasparov preferred Nc5]

### **21.Rd3**

Idea Rh3, Qh4

### **21...Nb4 22.Rh3 Bg7**



After the game, Karpov believed that he missed a win here with f5. Kasparov felt that he could have held.

**23.Be3**

[23.Qh4 Nf8]

**23...Re7 24.Kg1 Rce8 25.Rd1 f5**

And just like that, black's position comes alive.

**26.gxf6 Nxf6**

threat Ng4

**27.Rg3**



[27.Bxb6 Ng4 28.Bxc7 Nxf2 29.Kxf2 (29.Bxd6 Nxd1 30.Bxe7 Nxc2 31.Nxd1 Rxe7 ~ ~ 32.e5) 29...Rxc7 30.Rxd6 Nxc2 +/-]

**27...Rf7 28.Bxb6 Qb8 29.Be3 Nh5 30.Rg4 Nf6 31.Rh4 g5! 32.fxg5 Ng4**

[32...Nxe4]

**33.Qd2**

[33.Qxf7+ Kxf7 34.Rxg4 Nxc2 35.Bf2 Ba8 -/+]

**33...Nxe3**

The absence of the dark-squared bishop will be felt. The Bg7 has just gained in strength.

**34.Qxe3 Nxc2 35.Qb6 Ba8 36.Rxd6?**



[36.Qxb8 Rxb8 37.Bh3 Rxb3 38.Bxe6 Rxb2 39.Rf1 Rbb7=]

**36...Rb7 37.Qxa6 Rxb3 38.Rxe6 Rxb2 39.Qc4 Kh8 40.e5?**

[40.g6 h6 41.Rxe8+ Qxe8=/+]

**40...Qa7+**

[40...Rxe6 41.Qxe6 Qa7+ 42.Kh1 Bxg2+ 43.Kxg2 Nd4+]

**41.Kh1 Bxg2+ 42.Kxg2 Nd4+ 0-1**

# 6.f4 Variation

**Anand - Kasparov  
Tilburg 1991, Rd. 12 B93**

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 f4 e6**



A critical line against the 6 f4 system is 6 ... e5 7 Nf3 Nbd7 with variations such as 8 Bc4 b5, or 8 a4 d5!?

**7 Bd3 Nbd7 8 O-O Qb6**

This move may be overly sharp but Black is passively placed after 8 ... Be7 9 Kh1. If 8 ... Qb6 is no good, Black would probably have to ditch 7 ... Nbd7 also and play 7 ... Nc6 instead.

**9 Be3 Qb2 10 Ndb5! ab 11 Nb5 Ra5**





In DeFirmian - Gheorghiu, Lone Pine 1980 11 ... Qb4 worked out badly after 12 Nc7+ Ke7 13 Nxa8 Qa5 14 e5. Even worse would be 12 ... Kd8 13 Nxa8 Qa5 14 Nb6! Nxb6 15 Qe1!

**12 Rb1 Rb5!**

The point. 12 ... Qxa2 13 Nc3 Qa3 14 Rb3 was impossible.

**13 Rb2 Rb2**

So far Black has a rook and two minors for the queen but White's next will recover an Exchange.

**14 Qa1 Rb6**

Forget about 14 ... Rb4? 15 Qc3.

**15 Bb6 Nb6**

The key position. Black has 3 pieces for the queen, and if he can stabilize by getting a knight to c5 or by taking advantage of White's weak dark squares, then he will have a good game.

**16 Qc3!**



Anand targets the uncoordinated queenside minors.

**16...Be7 17 Rb1**

Accurate. 17 Qc7 leads nowhere after 17 ... Nfd7 18 Rb1 0-0 19 Rb6? Bd8!

**17... Nfd7**

Forced. 17 ... Bd8 18 Qd4 would be deflating.

**18 Qg7 Bf6 19 Qh6**

White's payoff has been the capture of the g-pawn and it was time to reevaluate the position. Black has activated the dark-squared bishop but still has problems with his knights. Kasparov said he should have played 19 ... Rg8 which stops White's plan g4-g5. But then 20 Bb5 still seems strong.

**19... Ke7 20 Bb5**

Best was 20 g4! (Kasparov) Then 20 ... Rg8 21 g5 Bg7 22 Qh4 (Not 22 Qxh7?? Bd4+ and 23 ... Rh8) with a big advantage.

**20... Rg8?**



Also bad was 20 ... Nc5? 21 e5 dxe5 22 fxe5 Bxe5 23 Qg5+. Now was the moment to stabilize with 20 ... e5! (Kasparov) White cannot allow Black to post the bishop at e5, so he must play 21 f5. Then 21 ... Nc5 hits the e-pawn and Black has time to organize a coherent defence. Note that 20 ... Bd4+ 21 Kh1 e5 fails to 22 Qh4+ Nf6 23 c3!

### 21 Rd1 e5

It was too late for 21 ... Nc5 22 e5 dxe5 23 fxe5 Bxe5 24 Qh4+ Bf6 25 Qb4 (Ftacnik)

### 22 f5 Nc5?

23 Qd2 was the threat, and Ftacnik's recommendation 22 ... Na8 does not help. The best try was 22 ... Rd8 23 g4 Nc5! (Black is helpless after 23 ... Rg8 24 h3 as 24 ... d5? 25 exd5 Bg5 26 Qxh7 Nf6 loses to 27 d6+ and White again threatens 25 Qd2) 24 g5 Nxe4 25 gxf6+ Nxf6 with a bizarre situation where Black has only two knights for the queen but some counterplay (Kasparov).

### 23 Rd6!



Now Anand mops up incisively.

**23... Bg5**

Black falls apart on 23 ... Kxd6 24 Qxf6+

**24 Qh7 Ne4 25 Rb6 25 Rd8 26 Bd3**

Shutting down all counterplay.

**26 Be3+ 27 Kf1 Bb6 28 Be4 Rd4 29 c3 1 - 0**

# White: S. Polgar

## Black: Bent Larsen

### Reykjavik 1995

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6**

This slightly unusual move order avoids the line 3...cxd4 4 Qxd4 and 3...cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3, but Black must be ready for 4 dxc5 Nxe4 5 cxd6 Nxd6 when White has a tiny edge.

**4 Nc3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nbd7 6 f4**

Sophia transposes to a line in the Najdorf Sicilian, totally unperturbed by her opponent's off beat continuation.

**6...a6 7 Nf3 Qc7 8 a4 g6 9 Bd3 Bg7 10 0-0 0-0 11 Qe1 e6 12 Kh1 Nc5?**



The experienced Danish G.M. appears to have confused himself rather than his younger opponent since it was already considered fatal to remove this knight from the vulnerable kingside. Preferable therefore is 12...b6! 13 Qh4 Bb7 14 f5 Rae8 15 Bg5 Qc5 with mutual chances as in Santo Roman-Sadler, Cannes 1996.

**13 Qh4 b6 14 f5! exf5 15 exf5 Nxd3 16 cxd3 Bxf5 17 Nd4 Qc5**

Black actually has no choice but to allow the destruction of the kingside since if the bishop on f5 moves, Rxf6 is decisive. The ruthless finish has definite parallels with the former example.

18 Nxf5 gxf5 19 d4 Qc4 20 Rxf5 Ne8 21 Nd5 Ra7 22 Be3 f6 23 Qe4! Raf7 24 Ne7 + Kh8 25 Rh5 1-0.



Black does not wait for 25...f5 26 Rxh7+ Kxh7 27 Qh4 mating.

## OPENING NOTES 3. SICILIAN B82. BEATING JUDIT POLGAR

by Ignacio Marin

The publication of 'Beating the Sicilian 3' by Nunn and Gallagher has been one of the highlights of 1995. I will write somewhere else about this excellent book; now I will concentrate in one of the variations suggested by Nunn and Gallagher:

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. f4 e6 7. Qf3!?



This variation has been played often lately. It leads to a very complex game, with chances for both sides. The main black defense is **7...Qb6** (7...Nbd7!? is interesting) with the idea of driving the knight to a less active position. After **8. Nb3 Qc7** white generally plays **9. g4** carrying out the main idea of the variation, the fast advance of the g pawn to win space and interfere with black development similarly to the Keres Attack (6 g4) of the Scheveningen. Black then generally plays **9...b5**, obtaining what is today one of the main positions of this variation.



Now Nunn and Gallagher recommend **10 Bd3**. The reason for that is that after 10. g5 black can answer 10...b4! with a position that they consider good for black, now that the knight is in b3 (a similar position with the knight in d4 after 7...Qc7?! 8 g4 b5 9. g5 b4 is good for white after 10 Ncb5!). However, surprisingly, Judit Polgar played last year two games with this variation with good results. After **10. g5 b4 11 Nb5! ab 12 gf**



both **12...Nd7** and **12...gf** were supposed to be OK for black. However, Judit showed that this is not so simple, winning one of the games and drawing the other one.

I would like to propose a third alternative after 12 gf: **12...Bd7!? N**. After long hours of analysis, my feeling is that black saves the game by the skin of its teeth in this variation and that in fact is quite dangerous for both sides. The better prepared player surely will win.

The idea behind this heterodox move is to keep both b pawns while completing



development with ...Bc6, ...Nd7. While the black king surely will stay in the center, the white king won't be safer in g1 or h1 when the bishop reaches the long a8-h1 diagonal. Meanwhile, the Ra8 will keep the pawn a2 under attack to avoid white king to castle long. A lot of words, when only variations can demonstrate its suitability. Let's see.



a) **13 fg** (certainly not dangerous, contributing to black's development) 13...Bg7 14. Rg1 Bf6 15 e5 Bc6 16 Bb5 de with a double-edged position.

b) **13. Rg1** (quite logical, but we will see that the rook can be harassed later with ... Qb6. Moreover, white cannot castle kingside anymore) 13...gf 14. Nd4 (14. Bd3 see 13. Bd3) Bc6! (14...Qc5? 15 Be3 e5 16 Nb5 +-) 15. Nb5 (15. Bd3 transposes again to 13. Bd3) 15...Qb7! complicated.

c) **13. Bd3** ( a safe answer, defending c2. Probably first choice of an unprepared opponent) **13...gf** and now white has several possibilities:

c1) **14. Bd2** Ra4! (excellent. The b pawns have to be kept to constraint white play) 15 Rg1 Qb7 again with a very difficult position. It is not clear how white is going to break. This position is typical when white simply develops. White will win if only the a rook is brought into play, but white king has no clear square.

c2) **14 Rg1** Bc6 15. Bd2 (15. Nd4 Nd7 and suddenly the g1 rook is not right to get black crushed: 16. Be3 Qb7 or 16. Qe2 Qb6!) Ra4! (but not 15...d5?! 16 ed Bd5 17 Bb5 Nd7 18 Qd3! and black has plenty of holes no counterplay) again with an obscure position.

c3) **14 f5!** (aggressive) e5! (black has several attractive options, all of them worst that the text. An important trick in white's hand is 14... ef? 15 ef Bc6 16 Qe2 Qe7 (looking to alleviate the position exchanging queens) 17. Rg1 Qe2 18 Be2! and now black is in deep trouble. The point of this move is to avoid the maneuver ...Nd7, ...Nc5 (or Ne5) and ...

Nd3. After 18...d5 (to answer Nd4) 19.Bf4 Nd7 20 Rg3! white will eventually win at least one of the b pawns with great advantage) 15. Bd2 Ra4! 16 Nc1!? (16 Rg1 runs into the same problems: 16...Bc6 17 Nc1 Qb7 18 b3 Ra8 19 Qe2 (19 Bb4 d5!) Qb6! and again the g1 rook is in the wrong square) 16...Rg8 17 b3 Ra8 18. Bb4 d5 again confusing. Or 14 f5 e5 15 Rg1 Bc6 16 Qe2 Qd7! 17 Bd2 d5 with quite a messy situation.

d) Till now, black has been saving itself using all the available resources. The REAL problems start when white decided to go for the kill without losing time with **13. f5!**



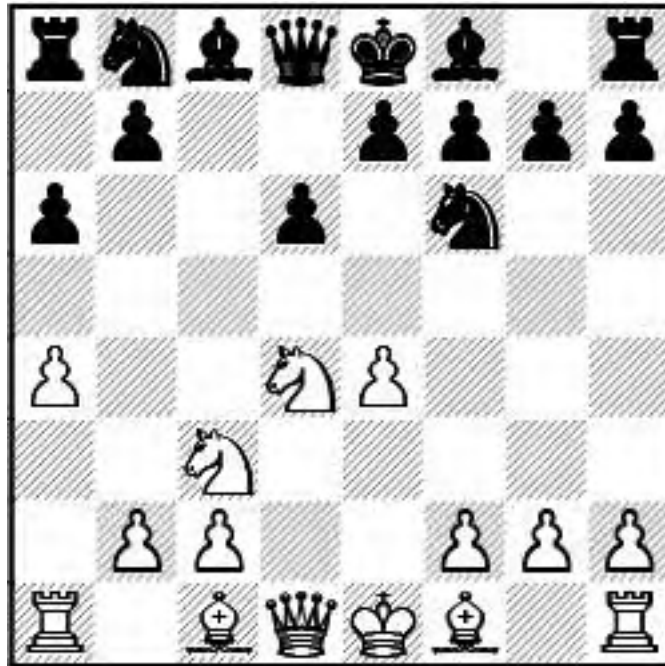
d1) **13...Qc2** seems too risky. 14 fe! Be6! (14...fe? 15 f7 Kd8 16 Bg5 +/-) 15 Bb5 Bd7 (15...Nd7 16 Nd4) 16 Bd3 Qc7 17 Rg1 with a dominant position.

d2) **13...gf** is now insufficient. 14. fe fe 15 Qf6! Qc2 16 Rg1! Qh2 17 Be3 Qd4 18 Bd4 Qe4 19 Be2 winning.

d3) **13...Qb7!** is best. Seems like black is surviving. 14 fe Be6! 15 Nd4 Bc4 and now 16. Rg1 g6! or 16 Bc4 bc4 17 Rg1 g6! are unclear while 16 fg Bg7 17 Nf5 Be5 lead to crazy situations after 18 Bf4 Ra6! or 18 Bd2 Ra2!. Also dangerous is 14. Rg1!? gf 15 fe Be6! 16 Qf6 (16 Bd3 Nd7 complicated) Qe4 17 Be2 Bc4! with a crazy position again. Finally 14 fg Bg7 15 f6 Bf8 16 Rg1 Nc6! with idea of ...Ne5 leads to another difficult situation.

CONCLUSION: black seems to survive in every single variation but in a number of cases it is close to collapse. Good enough for beating Judit?. Maybe that's why she played 8 a3 instead of 8 Nb3 against Kasparov recently??. Well, not likely, but I think **12...Bd7** is good enough as to win a few games against your hyper-theoretical friends.

## 6.a4 Variation



This mysterious play of pawn has the purpose of avoiding the expansion of the black in the queen side, delaying the development of its pieces and hoping to see that plan adopts the black. In the Eighties and the principles of the ninety it was played successfully by strong players, between whom the English stand out, Nunn, Chandler and Short. Little by little one went letting play, fundamentally by continuation 6... Nc6, that leaves the possibility open of continuing with 7... e5 or in their defect, to pass directly to a Variation of the Dragon with 7... g6.

the transpositional nature of the move 6.a4 is also noted after 6... e6, where the white can go to lines that are outside our repertoire, after 7.Bc4 or 7.Be2. We propose movement **6... e5**, the continuation "more" Najdorf. Habitually he considers themselves that this form to play does to the target an important favor to him and justifies his previous play. After the retirement of the knight to "f3", he would obtain favorable variations of the following two lines:

- a) 6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3,.
- b) 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3,.

This is understood because in the fight for the control of the square "d5", the white maintain the development options open 8.Bc4 or 8.Bg5, which would with time let them have the extra pawn in "a4".

We accepted the relative disadvantage of the last play of the black, although with the conviction of which is not very important and that the positions that are obtained are

very reasonable, and simultaneously very easy to play according to the repertoire that we have chosen.

**White: Marjanovic**

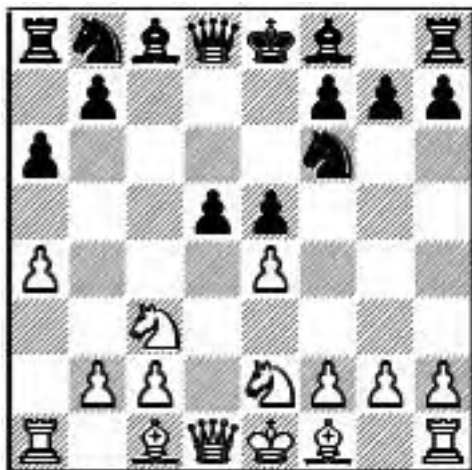
**Black: Chandler**

**Nis 1983**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 e5 7.Nf3**

This is the habitual continuation of the system, but the other two places of knight are also possible:

**7.Nde2!?** This mysterious continuation is a specialty of Van del Wiel, who has played it in numerous occasions. The reader must observe here that of the most reasonable plays, after 7... Be7, 8.g3!?, he would take us to a theoretical position although, outside the repertoire chosen in this book. On the other hand, 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be2 takes to positions, analyzed in the Variation 6.Be2 to us. **7... d5!**



Looking for something new to play at this moment, this possibility, something bold, that came to the mind it tries to punish the rival plays, that stop the positions that are going away to give could be defective. **8.exd5**. The capture 8.Nxd5 does not present/display to be no problem for the second player, who easily equals after 8... Nxe4 9.Be3 Nc6. A continuation could be 10.Nb6 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Nb4 12.Rc1 Rb8, with equality. **8... Bb4**. Soon of the pawn sacrifice, the pieces of the black are placed in very active positions. Nótese like, after opening the game, the together used continuations 6.a5 and 7.Nde2, appears like weak, first, to debilitate the square "b4", and second, because it obstructs the development. **9.Bg5**. a passive possibility is the play 9.Bd2, that 10.Ng3 allows the blacks to recover the pawn with advantage after 9... 0-0 (10.g3 Nxd5!) 10... Bxc3 11. Bxc3 Nxd5=/+ ) **9... 0-0!**. Were not good 9... Qxd5? by 10.Bxf6 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 gxf6 12.Nd5, and the white gain a pawn. **10.Bxf6**. If the white must come off themselves this bishop, is evident that something does not work in its position. Another possibility is to do 10.Ng3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 13.Ke2 gxf6. The white monarch in the center of the board is not very attractive. **10... Qxf6 11.Ng3 Qd8!** In exchange for a pawn the blacks have the pair of bishops and, which is more representative, the

control of the black squares. The knights of the white well are not located and the pawn of "d5" letter against the mobility of troops of the bishop that runs by the white squares. The following variations are single illustrativas. **12.Bc4**. If 12.Bd3, the bishop can be exposed. 12... f5 13,0-0 g6!?© (13... e4!?©). Nd7 or 14 the 14 blacks are ready to play..... Bd6. In exchange for a pawn their position is much more pleasant. 12... f5 13,0-0 Kh8!?©. A flexible play that allows us to continue with the development without worrying us about the advance d5-d6. The compensation is evident. perhaps 13... Bd6 is a little premature because this way, the knight of "c3" could take to "b6". For example: 14.a5? Nd7 15.Qd2 Qh4!? 16.Be2 e4 17.Na4 Rf6, and although also is compensation, is depended here more on the frontal attack.

## 7...Be7!?

As we cannot avoid nor 8.Bc4, nor 8.Bg5, we allowed both. More ahead we will take care to respond positively to each one of them.

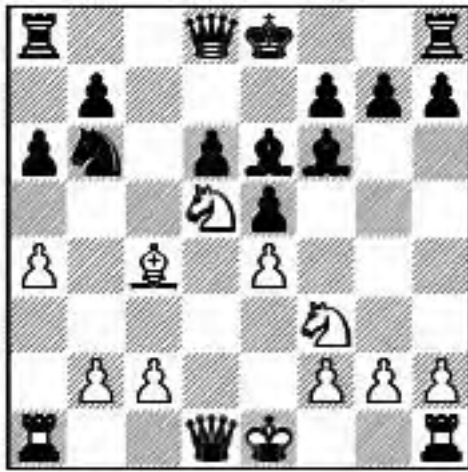
## 8.Bc4

Another alternative is **8.Bg5**, to which it is possible to be responded: **8... Be6!** the most attractive play. Option 8... Nbd7, although controls plus the square "d5", leaves located the bishop of "c8 badly".

The white bishop could move to "c4" from where it would exert an important pressure. If the target wants to justify its previous play it must capture in "f6", not to allow the rival to connect the knights with 9... Nbd7 and to add another piece to the control of the square "d5". **9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Nd5 Nd7 11.Bc4**. If the target tries to obtain some advantage must place its bishop in an active square, and now:

**A) 11... 0-0 12.0-0 Rc8**. The resulting position is balanced for the blacks. **13.b3**. 13. Ba2 perhaps allows a little more fight than the employee in the game, but also after her, the Blacks obtain a good game with 13... Nb6! 14.c3 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Rc5 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Qb3 Qc8, with balanced game) **13... Nb6!** Here one declared tables in the game Smirin - Berkes, Moscow 2004. The black does not have anything to fear. They go away to change too many pieces like aspiring to some advantage on the part of the first player. If the black wanted to play of one more a more ambitious way, Bg5 could try 13..., and continue, after suitable preparation, for the advance f7-f5, although objectively we are not safe of its correction.

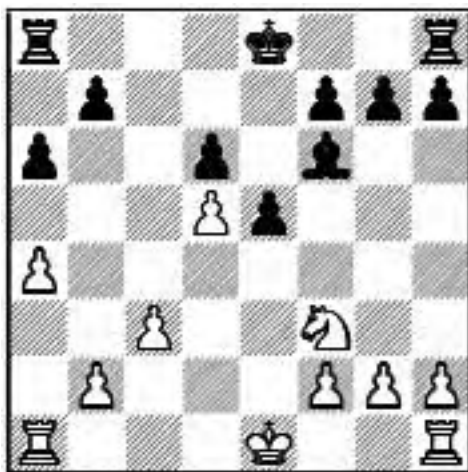
## B) 11...Nb6!



From the strictly theoretical point of view, this continuation would have to be sufficient to discourage to the players who lead the white pieces of their possibilities of obtaining some advantage.

**12.Bb3.** Mover 12.Nxf6+ either does not offer anything tangible after 12... Qxf6 13. Bxe6 Qxe6 14.0-0 0-0 (to transfer the knight to "f6" with 14... Nd7! it seemed simplest) 15.Qd3 Rfd8 16.Rfd1 Rac8?! (16... Nc8 maintained the balance; 17.Nd2 Ne7 =) 17.a5+/=, Andreikin - Perman, Kirishi 2003. **12... Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Qa5+.** This is the key of the effectiveness of movement 11... Nb6!, since it practically forces to play the end. **14.c3.**

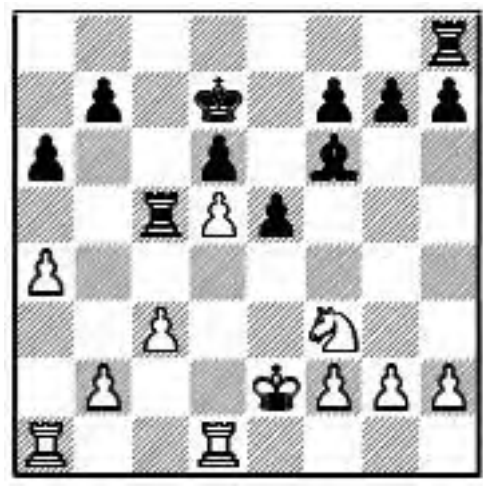
After 14.Qd2, the knight in "d2" will be left a little passive, which offers good possibilities to the black of obtaining advantage. The game that is offered next is a good example of the possibilities of the second player in the end. The reader will find one more a detailed explanation of the same one underneath the following diagram. 14... Qxd2+ 15.Nxd2 Bxd5 16.exd5 Rc8 17.c3 Be7 18.0-0 f5 19.f4 0-0 20.g3 g6 21.a5 exf4 22.gxf4 Rfe8 23.Ra4 Bf8 24.Rc4 Bh6 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Nb3 Rc4 27.Re1 Kf7 28.Nd4 Bxf4 29.Ne6 Be5 30.Nd8+ Ke7 31.Ne6 Ra4 32.b3 Rxa5 33.c4 Ra1 34.Rxa1 Bxa1 35.Kf2 Be5 36.h3 h6 37.Kf3 g5 38.b4 b6 39.Nc7 a5 40.c5 dxc5, and the white surrendered Meessen - Vanderstricht, Geel 2002. **14... Bxd5 15.Qxd5** (if 15.exd5?! follows 15...e4!) **15... Qxd5 16.exd5**



The opening leaves place to a end where it is evident that the blacks have fulfilled the objective to reach the balance.

The goal of both sides now, is to mobilize its majority of pawns. In spite of the simplified thing that is the position, we considered that both players can try to gain this departure end since the structure of pawns very is unbalanced. It will be fundamental to determine what piece is going to be better, if the bishop or the knight. Now we inclined something more by the knight although long term the bishop can of sarrollar very well its potential of game in both flanks. On the other hand, it is evident that semiopened column "c" gives to the blacks an active game him of towers that the target at the moment does not have, which allows him, among other things, to press the pawn of "d5" and to avoid the advance of the pawn "c3". **16... Rc8 17.Ke2 Rc5**. There are many forms to interpret the end. One of them is trying to gain space in the king side and to activate the tower. For example: 17... h5!? 18.h4 Rh6 19.Nd2 Rg6 20.g3 Rg4. Objectively the position follows even but at least of this form we have obtained that the white one touches to its pawns of the king side which offers new possibilities of game.

**18.Rhd1 Kd7**



**19.Ne1!?** The beginning of a good plan destined to mobilize the pawns of the queen side. **19... Bg5 20.Nc2 f5 21.Na3 Re8**. It is not clear that this one is the best square for the tower, possibly was better to place it in column "c directly" which offers the extra possibility to sacrifice the quality. For example: 21... Rhc8 22.c4 Rxc4 (22... e4!? 23.Ra2 Bf6, or 23... Rxc4, that is another version of the delivery) 23.Nxc4 Rxc4!?, with balanced possibilities. **22.c4 e4 23.Ra2 Rc7 24.a5 Rb8 25.b4 b6**. The beginning of a missed plan of rupture in the queen side who is only going to benefit to the target. In the two games that have gambled the end, after 13... Qa5, the player more hard managed to prevail, which not necessarily reinforces our in question argument of an even end but tables. **26.axb6 Rxb6 27.Rb1 Bf6 28.Ke3 Bc3 29.c5 Rxb4?** (29... dxc5! is good now for moving 30.bxc5 Rb4 31.Rxb4 Bxb4 32.Nc4 Rxc5 33.Kd4 a5, with balance) **30.c6+ Ke7 31.Rxb4 Bxb4 32.Nc4 Ra7 33.Kf4 Kf6 34.h4 g6 35.g4 h5 36.gxh5 gxh5 37.Ne3 Kg6 38.Rc2 Bc5 39.Rxc5 dxc5 40.d6 Kf7 41.c7**, and the blacks surrendered, Yagupov - Larios Crespo, Ubeda 2000.

## 8...Be6!



## 9.Qe2

The change 9.Bxe6 gives rise to a very good structure of pawns for the black. In the variation 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3, page 10, we have seen more examples of this reason. 9... fxe6 10.0-0 (if 10.Ng5, Qc8 11,0-0 h6 12.Nh3 0-0 13.f3 Nbd7 14.Nf2 Qc6 15.Kh1 Rac8 16.Re1 Bd8 17.Nd3 Bb6, with slight superiority of the blacks, Nijboer - Peng, Wijk aan Zee 1997. The second player has one more a more pleasant position) 10... 0-0 11.Ng5 Qd7 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 h6 14.Nh3 Nc6 15.Nf2 d5? (15... Rf7!? 16.Nd3 Raf8 and also we preferred the position of the blacks here) 16.e5 Nh7 17.Nd3 Nb4 18.Kh1 Rf7 19.Nxb4 Bxb4 20.Ne2 Raf8, with better game of the black, Hansen - Shneider, Aars 1995.

## 9...0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Ba2

The positions that would occur after the play 11.Bb3 are similar already analyzed in the line 6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3, page 77. Comparing it with this one, the white have carried out the advance here a2-a4 instead of Be3. If we consider that one of the white plans in that position is to move Bg5 and Bxf6 indeed, we can conclude that the play 6.a4 practically has the target of more. In spite of everything, the time is not very important, because a4, although prevents the advance b5, does not have direct influence on the key point "d5".

In addition, the future it can that offers to the blacks the possibility him of taking advantage of the weakening the point "b4".

We recommended the reader, to be sent to the variation before mentioned (6.Be3 e5 7. Nf3), if he wants to understand better these positions, since there they are explained with more detail. **11... Rc8!?**





We make this play to avoid the tactical missions that could be happened after 11... Nbd7?! 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Ng5. Either does not please to us to do now 11... Nc6, since with 12.Nd5, the white obtain advantage. **12.Bg5 Nbd7**, and the blacks have very good perspective.

### **11...Nc6!?**

There are one of the disadvantages of the advance here a2-a4: the weakness of the square "b4". Aside from this logical development, the blacks can continue with play 11... Rfc8! soon to follow with 12... Nbd7 and to raise a perhaps more ambitious game. For one more an explanation detailed on the matter the reader 11.Bb3 can be sent to the sight after the movement Rfc8, in this same page.

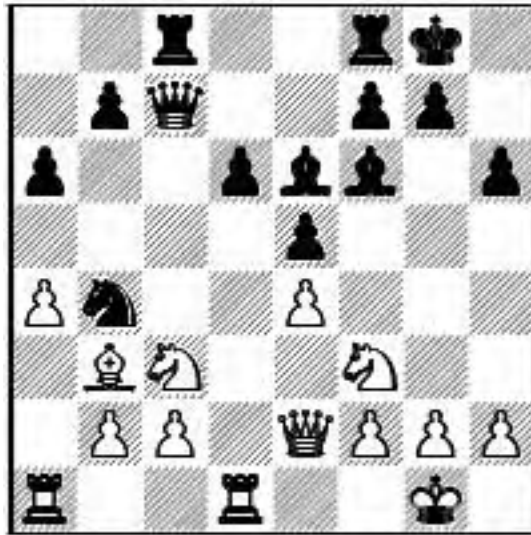
### **12.Rd1**

With the bishop in "a2" instead of "b3" the knight play 12.Nd5 is not specially bothers. After 12... Bxd5 13.exd5 Nb4! before the double threat, on the pawn of "d5" and the bishop of "a2", evidence that the white have not obtained anything significant. Perhaps the white must have played 12.Bg5 directly, to avoid that the rival plays 13... h6, as could have been given soon in the game.

### **12...Nb4 13.Bb3 Rac8**

The position is of equality. Possibly better it was: 13... h6!

### **14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6**



The position is balanced and is difficult both sides to make something significant. The rest of the game is played with relative correction by both players, who do not manage to alter the final outcome

**16.Qd2 Rfd8 17.a5 Qc5 18.h3 b5 19.axb6 Qxb6 20.Ra4 Rc5 21.Ra3  
Qb7 22.Qe2 a5 23.Nd2 Nc6 24.Bxe6 Nd4 25.Qd3 fxe6 26.Nb3 Nxb3  
27.Rxb3 Qc6 28.Rb5 Rxb5 29.Qxb5 Qxb5 30.Nxb5 d5 31.Nc3 Rb8 32.  
exd5 exd5 33.Rxd5 Rxb2 34.Rxa5 Rxc2 35.Ne4 Rc4**

## 6. h3 Variation

### The Fight for d5

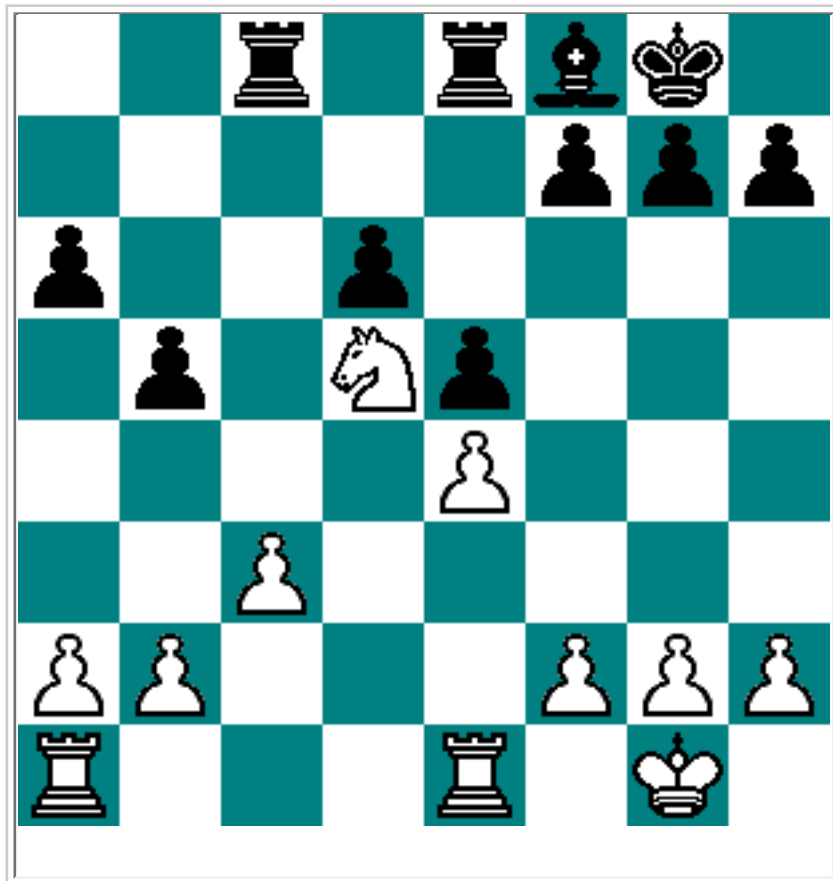
by GM Nigel Davies

Some time before winning the World U16 Championship, my former pupil, Ronen Har-Zvi, once told me that he wanted to be a chess professional. Whilst admitting that he undoubtedly had the talent it was my duty to advise him of the grim reality of the chess pro's life: "That's very nice Ronen, but it's not such a glamorous life as you might think. You will spend the next 30 years of your life living out of suitcases and fighting for control of the d5 square."

The next time we met he wanted to be a lawyer.

It's all perfectly true. If you play the Sicilian Defence with either White or Black you will spend much of your time fighting for d5. Besides the most obvious examples such as the Sveshnikov (1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5), Boleslavsky (5 ... d6 6. Be2 e5) and 'Kalashnikov' (4... e5 5. Nb5 d6) variations, many variations of the Najdorf (2 ... d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6) also feature this struggle. Ever since Boleslavsky discovered the dynamic nature of this strategic decision, players throughout the world have had Dr. Tarrasch turning in his grave. What does Black get for the d5 weakness? First of all his pawn on e5 stakes a good claim in the center, stopping White pieces from sitting on d4. Then there is counterplay on the half open c-file which is normally accentuated by an advance of Black's b-pawn. Boleslavsky and his contemporaries discovered is that d5 will only prove weak if a White piece, ideally a knight, can be established on this square. This alone isn't very easy, and even if you manage it Black may still develop worrying counterplay. As for the 'backward' d6 pawn, it tends to be rather easily defended.

Before going any further, here is something like the ideal position for White, and one which Black should avoid at all costs:



The bishop is like an insect compared with the knight on d5. White will set about winning this position by centralising his king and breaking his Rook into the enemy camp with a later a2-a4. But remove the bishop and knight and put, for example, a White bishop on e2 and a Black one on e6 or b7, and things are entirely different. I repeat that the whole question revolves around whether a minor piece can be established and maintained on the d5 square.

The 1993 Short - Kasparov match featured many struggles for the d5 square, let's take a look at a position from game 6:



White has occupied d5 with a knight but Kasparov simply exchanged them off with 18 ... Nxd5 19. Nxd5 Bxd5 20. Rxd5 and now rather than 20...Rc8, Kasparov later recommended 20 ...Qc7! as giving him the advantage. His variation continued: 21. Qg4 f6 22. Rf3 Qxc2 23. Rh3 Rf7 24. Qh5 h6 25. Qg6 Qxe4 26. Rd1 Kf8 27. Bxh6 gxh6 28. Rxh6 Ke8 29. Rh7 Qc4 etc. White's rook is ineffective on d5 as it can only break its teeth on the granite d6 and e5 pawns.

In this example, Short had occupied d5, but he was unable to maintain a knight there because Kasparov simply exchanged them off. Had Short managed to exchange his dark squared bishop for Black's knight at some earlier stage, it would have been a different story.

Before leaving this position I want to add that Kasparov had another strong move in 18 ... Rc8. My analysis in the pub suggested a clear advantage for Black, the attempt to confuse matters with 19. Nxe7+ Qxe7 20. Bg5 could simply be met by 20 ... Rc4, followed possibly by 21 ... Rfc8. Short's earlier 14. b2-b4? was a truly horrible move which weakened a whole range of squares on the c-file.

In his preparation for the match I think that Short took considerable inspiration from that other Western star, Robert James Fischer. In particular he adopted Fischer's favourite 6 Bc4 against the Najdorf, one of the main strategic ideas of which is to fight for the d5 square.

In his day Fischer won many model games with this plan - and also won a lot of games

with Black with this backward d-pawn. It all goes to show that there is no simple formula with which to judge this type of position. It all depends on where the pieces stand.

Here are two examples from Fischer's practice, one with White and one with Black. Fighting for d5 can even be fun!

## **Fischer - Bolbochan**

### **Stockholm Interzonal, 1962**

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. h3**

At this time Fischer had still to find his true love, 6. Bc4.

**6... Nc6 7. g4 Nxd4 8. Qxd4 e5 9. Qd3 Be7 10. g5!**

Commencing the fight for d5. Black's knight is driven from the f6 square.

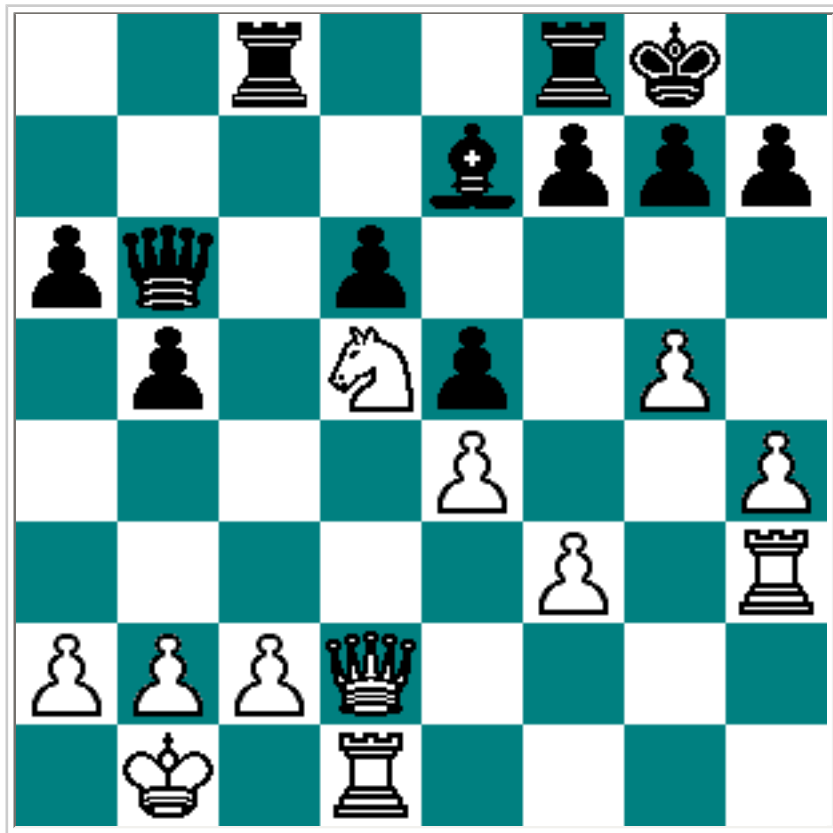
**10... Nd7 11. Be3 Nc5**

Black should have taken this opportunity to simplify matters with 11 ... Bxg5 12. Bxg5 Qxg5 13. Qxd6 Qe7. Now things start to get nasty.

**12. Qd2 Be6 13. 0-0-0 0-0 14. f3 Rc8 15. Kb1 Nd7 16. h4 b5 17. Bh3!**

Another key moment, Fischer systematically exchanges the defenders of d5, here and on his 19th move. In his marvellous book *My 60 Memorable Games*, Fischer gives the variations 17 ... Nb6 18. Bxb6 Qxb6 19. Nd5 Qd8 (19 ... Bxd5? 20 Bxc8) 20. Nxe7+ Qxe7 21. Qxd6 winning a pawn and 17 ... Re8 18. Nd5 Bf8 19. h5 "with a tremendous bind." Bolbochan's choice was driven by necessity.

**17 ... Bxh3 18. Rxh3 Nb6 19. Bxb6! Qxb6 20. Nd5**



Fischer's simple and elegant play has led to an ideal position. His winning method is also worthy of note; play on both wings and penetration with his major pieces.

**20 ... Qd8 21. f4!**

And not 21 Nxe7+? Qxe7 22 Qxd6?? because of 22 ... Rfd8.

**21 ... exf4 22. Qxf4 Qd7 23. Qf5! Rcd8 24. Ra3! Qa7 25. Rc3**

Fischer gave the best line here as 25 Nxe7+ followed by 26 Rxa6 with a winning major piece endgame. But it is difficult to bring oneself to exchange White's knight for Black's bishop, even when it wins.

**25 ... g6 26. Qg4 Qd7 27. Qf3 Qe6**

And not 27 ... Rc8 28 Rxc8 Rxc8 29 Nb6 etc.

**28. Rc7 Rde8**

Or 28 ... Rd7 29. Nf4.

**29. Nf4 Qe5 30. Rd5 Qh8 31. a3 h6 32. gxh6 Qxh6 33. h5**

In the final stage Fischer's piece activity is converted into a decisive attack on the enemy king.

**33 ... Bg5 34. hxg6! fxg6**

Or 34 ... Bxf4 35. gxf7+ Rxf7 36. Rxf7 Kxf7 37. Rh5! wins.

**35. Qb3 Rxf4**

After 35 ... Bxf4 36. Rh5+ wins the queen and 35 ... Kh8 36. Nxc6+ Qxc6 37. Rxc6 Rf1+ (37 ... Qxc6 38. Qh3+ leads to mate) 38. Ka2 Qxc6 39. Qh3+ Kf8 40. Qxf1 also wins without much trouble.

**36. Re5+ Kf8 37. Rxe8+ 1-0**

Mate is forced after 37 ... Kxe8 38. Qe6+ etc.

This final example is from the game Unzicker - Fischer, from the Varna Olympiad in 1962. White has obtained undisputed control of the d5 square but the occupying power is a queen. As with a rook, the queen is far from suitable for such sentry duties as her movement is considerably restricted by the d6 and e5 pawns. Fischer goes about generating counterplay on the c- and a- files and puts pressure on White's e-pawn:

**19 ... Ra4! 20. c3 Qa6 21. h3 Rc8 22. Rfe1 h6! 23. Kh2 Bg5 24. g3?**

Weakening the kingside. Better was 24 Rad1.

**24 ... Qa7! 25. Kg2 Ra2 26. Kf1 Rxc3! 0-1**

Black wins after 27. Rxa2 (27. bxc3? Qf2 mate) Rf3+ 28. Ke2 Rf2+ 29. Kd3 Qxa2 30 Ra1 Qxb2 as his back rank is no longer vulnerable (22 ... h6!).



# 6.Rg1 variation

Opening: **B90 - Sicilian Defense Najdorf variation**

## **Introduction:**

When the Blacks raise the Najdorf variation against the Sicilian Defense, the white can choose to prove lines not so beaten to leave books more early. One of the possible variations is born of 6.Rg1. He would be something as well as (g4) pre-attacks Keres, and in fact sometimes it is dozed off to the same one. The white raised in this game a very interesting line for attack players, who do not vacillate giving material if it is necessary. The idea is based on the later sacrifice of quality, that produces a great dominion of white squares on the part of the white. In this game the white are mistaken shortly after, capturing erroneamente 13.Ncxb5, when the correct era 13.Ndxb5, that takes to complicated positions that are necessary to investigate thoroughly.

**Yemelin, V (2500) - Sammalvuori, T (2393) [ B90 ]  
EtVas Vantaa GM Myrmanen (6), 25.07.1999**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Rg1 h6**

[ 6... Nc6 7.g4 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 complex Qxd5 10.Be3, Todorovic, G-Lazic, D/Svetozarevo 1990 ] 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Qa5+ 12.c3 Nxd4

**7.g4 g5 8.Bc4**

[ 8.h4 gxh4 13.Qxd4 Rg8 14.Bc4 Qa4 15.Kd2 Bd7 16.f3 Bg7 17.Qd3 Bb5 18.Bxb5+ axb5 19.g5 h5 20.g6 Rf8 21.Ke2 b4 22.a3 bxc3 23.bxc3 Rc8 0-1 Conquest, S-Sadler, 66 M/Torquay 1998/CBM ext (36) (23... Rc8 24.Rac1 Qc4 25.f4 fxg6 26.Rxg6 Bf6 27.Qxc4 Rxc4 28.Bd2 Kf7 29.Rgg1 Rfc8 30.Rh1 R8c5 31.Rb1 b5 32.Rb4 Rxd5 33.Be1 Rdc5 34.Rh3 Kg6 35.Bxh4 Bxh4 36.Rxh4 Rxc3 Conquest, S-Sadler, 66 M/Torquay 1998/CBM ext (36) ) ]

**8... Nbd7 9.h4 Ne5 10.Bb3!?!N**



A dangerous, recommendable play only for attack chess players, arranged to sacrifice material if it is necessary. [ natural 10.Be2 also is possible. ]

### 10... Bxg4 11.Rxg4?

It complements the idea of the previous one. The white sacrifice the quality to harness their Bb3, and to create the greater possible amount of threats on white squares. [ In case of 11.f3 Qb6!

**A)** 12.Be3 Nxf3+-+;

**B)** 12.Ke2 Bd7 (12... Qxd4? 13.Qxd4 Nxf3 14.Qa4+- -) 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.Bxg5 Rh2+ with black advantage;

**C)** 12.fxg4 12... Qxd4 13.Qxd4 Nf3+ 14.Kf2 Nxd4 15.hxg5 Nxb3 with better game the blacks ]

### 11... Nfxg4 12.Ba4+ b5 13.Ncxb5?

[ the correct play era 13.Ndxb5

**A)** 13... Kd7! 14.Nd4+ (14.Qd5 axb5 15.Qb7+ Ke6; 14.Nxd6+? Kc7 15.Ne8+ Kb7 16.Nd5 e6-+) 14... Kc8 15.f3 Qb6! ... 16.fxg4 Qxd4 with black advantage;

**B)** 13... axb5! 14.Bxb5+ Nd7 15.Qxg4 Bg7 (15... e6 16.hxg5 hxg5 17.Bxg5±) 16.Bd2 complex. In this variation all the game of the white is maintained. The others, give to better possibilities to the blacks. ]

### 13... Qa5+! 14.Nc3+ Kd8 15.f3 Qc5!-+

[ Also simple the 15... Nf6 seemed to take to great advantage ]

**16.fxg4**

[ Or 16.Nce2 Nxf3+ 17.Nxf3 Qf2+-+ ]

**16... Qxd4 17.Qxd4**

[ 17.Qe2 Qg1+-+ ]

**17... Nf3+ 18.Kf2 Nxd4 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Bxg5 Bg7 21.Nd5 Ra7 22.c3 Nb5**

[ More fort seemed 22... Ne6 23.Be3 Rb7 24.b4 Nc7 ]

**23.Kg1 Be5!**

[ mejor23... Bh6 ]

**24.Rd1?**

[ better 24.Nb4 ]

**24... Rg8 25.Be3 Rxc4+ 26.Kf2 Rb7 27.Nb4 Rxe4 28.Bb3 Nc7**

[ 28... e6? 29.Kf3 Rh4? 30.Bg5++ - ]

**29.Bxf7 Kd7 30.Rh1 Bf4! 31.Bd4?**

[ 31.Kf3 Rxe3+ 32.Kxf4 Re2-+ ]

**31... Rxb4**

[ 31... Rxd4 ]

**32.Rd1 Rbxd4 0-1**